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GEORGIA SOUTHERN

SUMMER 2007 • VOLUME 9 • NUMBER 3 • WWW.GEORGIASOUTHERN.EDU

GREAT PROFESSORS
FIND THE BEST IN
THEIR STUDENTS
- AND THEMSELVES.



SCHOLARSHIP MADE PERSONAL

A LOOK AT SOME OF THE
OUTSTANDING WORK OF
GEORGIA SOUTHERN'S
WORLD-CLASS FACULTY.





To Our ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

As we enter the home stretch of Georgia Southern's Centennial Celebration, I want to offer a word of thanks to the many thousands of alumni and friends who have joined us for events on campus and throughout the state.

We were especially pleased when more than 2,000 Eagles came to Centennial Park for our Greater Atlanta celebration on a beautiful Saturday evening in May. The extended Georgia Southern community is beginning our second century with remarkable energy and enthusiasm. You are our greatest ambassadors in telling the success story of this institution as we reach new heights of academic distinction and service to our region.

The key to Georgia Southern's progress is quality. It is measured in many ways, but none is more important than the quality of our faculty. The cover story of this issue of Georgia Southern magazine profiles a group of faculty members who personify quality. Be assured that there is simply not enough space on the pages of this publication to truly do justice to every single faculty member who embodies excellence, touches the lives of our students, and continues to bring national distinction to Georgia Southern.

The University's Strategic Plan identifies our core values. They include integrity, civility, kindness, collaboration, and a commitment to lifelong learning, wellness and social responsibility. Our faculty members embrace these values, instill them in their students and, in doing so, help foster a culture that continues to set Georgia Southern apart as a university.

It doesn't take long at an alumni gathering, whether it's an Eagle Club get-together, a picnic on Sweetheart Circle, or a Homecoming tailgater, before stories begin to flow about those Georgia Southern professors who made their marks on the futures of their students.

And, speaking of Homecoming, please mark your calendar for October 26-27. It will be our Centennial Homecoming. We'll bring our birthday celebration to its close with an array of exciting activities. It will be the perfect opportunity to re-visit campus. If you haven't been back in a while, I guarantee that you'll be impressed, if not stunned, by the growth and beauty of the place.

You are an integral part of Georgia Southern's past and continued success. Thank you again for your support and participation in this Centennial year.

Bruce Grube
President



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Great professors teach well, but they are also expected to uphold high standards of research and service within their fields. With passion for their disciplines and ability to impart that enthusiasm to students, these teachers are synonymous with great scholarship.

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Campus plays host

Indicating a growing trend at the University, several Georgia Southern departments hosted national and regional gatherings of experts in their fields of study this year. The number and complexity of the conferences highlights the University's expanding role in bringing expertise together on a regional and national basis. A sampling of hosted conferences includes:

FORENSIC ACCOUNTING

The Center for Forensic Studies in Accounting and Business at Georgia Southern and West Virginia University hosted more than 150 accountants and educators from as far away as California and South Africa.

MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

The Department of Mathematical Sciences hosted the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) Southeastern Section's Annual Meeting attracting more than 400 faculty and students from Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY

The Department of Geology and Geography was the host for the Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section of the Geological Society of America. The conference set two records for the Section with 414 abstracts and 856 registrants.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

More than 300 economists and educators from around the world met in Savannah for the fifth annual International Industrial Organization Conference co-sponsored by the Industrial Organization Society and the College of Business Administration's School of Economic Development.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning will host 300-400 participants for the first SoTL Commons Conference Nov. 1-2. More information is available at <http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/ijstl/conference/registration.htm>.



FRANK FORTUNE

Schools from across the nation and the United Kingdom attended the 18th National Youth-At-Risk conference held in Savannah.

Youth-At-Risk Conference continues to expand

Nearly every U.S. state and the United Kingdom were represented as about 1,400 concerned professionals gathered for the College of Education's 18th National Youth-At-Risk conference last March.

Teachers, principals, school counselors and psychologists, health and human service counselors, parents, and community members were all present to honor five "high-flying schools" and attend more than 100 conference sessions.

Some took part in town hall meetings and panel presentations addressing relational aggression among girls, how to reach young African-American males, meeting the challenges of rural education, and building peace in our schools and communities.

"This conference is a tremendous opportunity to share ideas and best practices in education," said Dan Rea, professor of education. Rea and his colleagues Rosemarie Stallworth-Clark

and Fayth Parks co-chaired the event.

With materials and encouragement from Parks, conference attendees began creating a "healing quilt" to inspire victims of Hurricane Katrina.

For the first time, the year's high-flying schools included an international school, Saint Benedict Catholic School and Performing Arts College in Derby, England. High-flying schools are those whose students are successful in spite of poverty and high minority populations. High-flying schools demonstrate high levels of collaboration within the school and community, and they provide extra-curricular opportunities for students to develop citizenship skills.

The next National Youth-At-Risk conference is scheduled for March 2-5, 2008. Additional information about next year's conference is at <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/yar2008.html>.



FRANK FORTUNE

The University System Board of Regents held two days of budget, academic and policy discussions on campus.

Georgia Southern hosts Board of Regents

Topics from acquiring property to academic programs were on the table last April when the University System Board of Regents met on Georgia Southern's campus.

The Regents, who each year rotate two monthly meetings around the state on member campuses, held two days of budget, academic and policy discussions in the University's Nes-smith-Lane Continuing Education Center's ballroom.

The visit gave University officials an opportunity to showcase regent-funded campus facilities and programs. Several regents and their spouses also took advantage of an after-hours opportunity to tour campus and visit several high-profile facilities such as the Recreation Activity Center, the College of Information Technology and the Center for Wildlife Education.

The Board also heard a presentation by University President Bruce Grube, including a screening of the University's Centennial video, and listened as campus Police Chief Ken Brown detailed safety and security contingency planning in light of homeland security concerns and those raised by the recent armed assault on students at Virginia Tech.

The University System of Georgia's Board of Regents was created in 1931 as a part of a reorganization of Georgia's state government. With the act, public higher education in Georgia was unified for the first time under a single governing and management authority.

The Georgia governor appoints members to the Board, who each serves a term of seven years. The Board is composed of 18 members,

five of whom are appointed from the state-at-large, and one from each of the 13 congressional districts.

The Board of Regents elects a full-time chancellor who serves as its chief executive officer and the chief administrative officer of the University System. The System chancellor is Erroll B. Davis Jr., who came on board in 2006.

The Board oversees the operation of 35 state-funded colleges and universities in the state with 253,500 students, 35,000 faculty and staff and an annual budget of \$5 billion.

Georgia Southern and other institutions in the state's 12th Congressional District are represented by Regent Benjamin J. Tarbutton III of Sandersville. Tarbutton is assistant vice president of the Sandersville Railroad Co.

Students visiting Vietnam greeted warmly

Three decades after the last American troops left Vietnam, nine Georgia Southern art students – none of whom were born at the war's end – visited the Southeast Asian nation last May to gain a better understanding of the culture and experiences of its people.

Upon their return, they created art reflecting their experiences. Students' expressions ranged from video and photography to silkscreen, projection, and fabric installation.

The students' itinerary included Ho Chi Minh City, which has a thriving contemporary art scene. They also visited Hanoi, Vietnam's capital for more than a thousand years and home to the Vietnamese National History Mu-

seum, the National Museum of Ethnology, the National Museum of Fine Arts and the Revolution Museum.

On their trip, the group, accompanied by Georgia Southern faculty members Jeff Beekman and Megan Jacobs, completed two courses, "Visual Culture of Vietnam" and "Studio Exploration Abroad."

Two other faculty members, Jessica Hines and Mariana Depetris, also traveled with the group to gather material for their own artwork.

"Our first few days in Vietnam were overwhelming," said Emy Mixon, an art student from Alpharetta, Ga. "People looked so different. But after two weeks, we got our rhythm

and could duck here and there quickly with no problem."

Mae Chabra of Mount Pleasant, S.C., created a series of four-sided lanterns that combined words from the journal she kept while traveling with the photos she took. Kimberly and Josh Kaiser, the only married couple on the trip, worked together on their project. Using Kimberly's photography and Josh's poetry, they developed a multimedia project using projection and silkscreen.

The students and faculty members also spent a day at the "Little Rose" shelter, an orphanage for girls 12-18, where they delivered art supplies and visited with the residents.

Graduation: By the numbers

Georgia Southern graduates more than 2,000 in Spring Commencement ceremony

Each spring brings a new crop of University graduates, with each succeeding class having some unique characteristics from the previous year's.

Georgia Southern's 2007 Spring Commencement saw more than 2,000 degrees awarded to students in fields ranging from physics to finance.

The University had 2,344 degree candidates – 1,855 undergraduates and 489 graduate students. Among the undergraduates, 55 percent were female.

However, those 2,344 graduates earned 2,376 academic degrees – among all those graduat-

ing, 32 received two degrees instead of the usual single degree.

Although the graduates come from 25 different states, 94.7 percent were native Georgians. Among undergraduates, more than 96 percent were from Georgia.

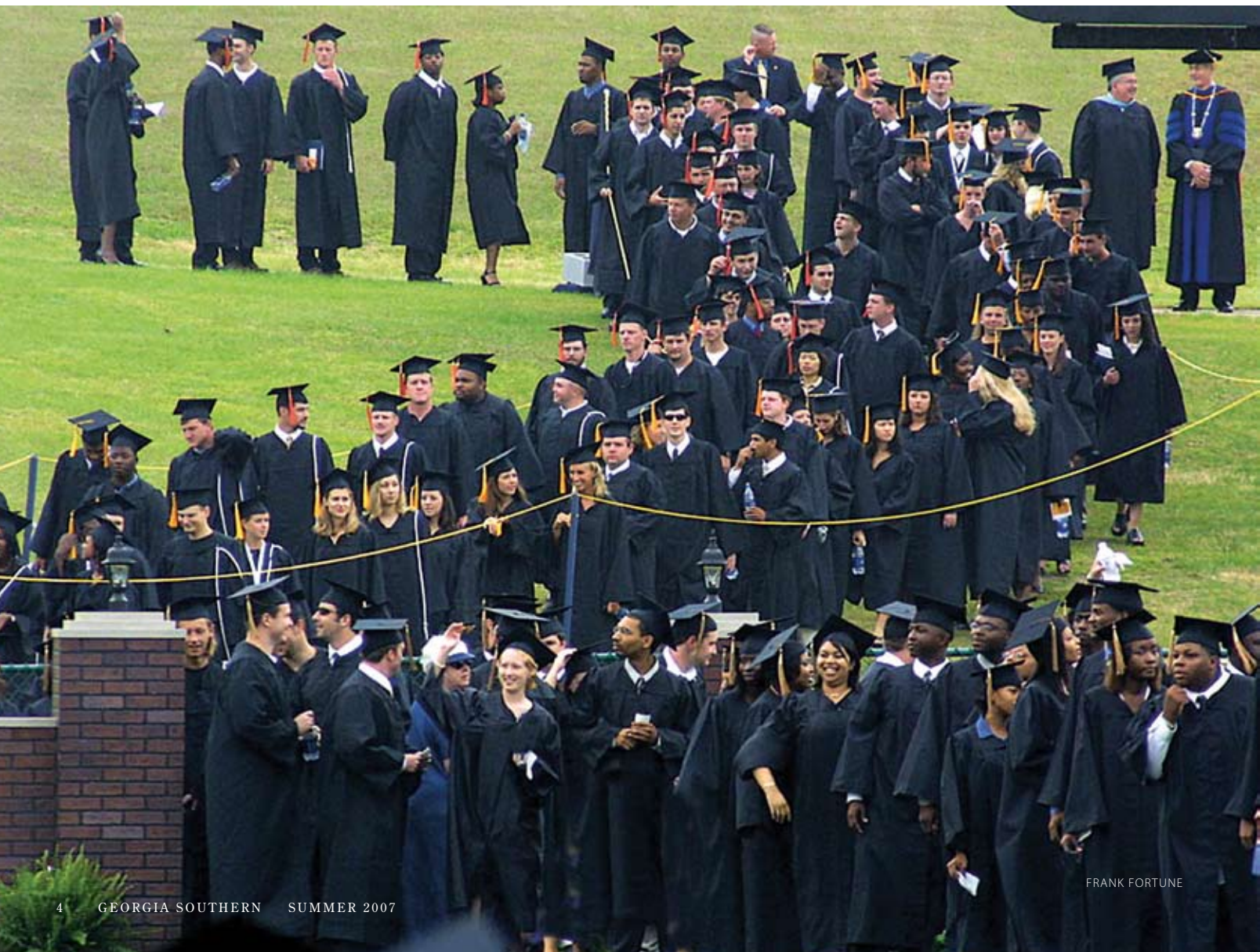
This class is proof that higher learning happens at any age. The youngest person graduated with a bachelor's degree at 19, and the oldest was 57. The average age for this year's Georgia Southern graduate is 24.

This year, Georgia Southern awarded 79 doctoral degrees – 77 of those to Georgians. Three-

quarters of the doctoral candidates were female, and the youngest of those candidates was 30.

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences had the largest number of graduates with 582, followed closely by the College of Business Administration with 488, the College of Health and Human Sciences with 455, and the College of Education with 445.

The College of Science and Technology graduated 270 and the College of Information Technology, 72. The newest unit, the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, graduated 18 students with master's degrees in public health.



FRANK FORTUNE

University works to avoid nursing shortage

SCRUBS program helps promote nursing program to minority students

As a University System of Georgia task force report warns that the state is facing a serious nursing shortage, Georgia Southern is moving quickly to help solve the problem.

A recent System study shows that the state will be short 20,000 nurses by 2012 unless steps are taken to increase the number of graduates.

"We continue to admit 50 students each semester from a competitive pool of candidates," said Jean Bartels, chair of the School of Nursing. "Also, we continue to look for ways to increase the number of students we admit to the School of Nursing."

Among this year's 62 nursing graduates are 12 students who obtained their nursing education through SCRUBS, a program designed to recruit minority students to a nursing career and increase minority representation in the nursing workforce. To remain in the program, each student must maintain a 3.0 GPA. This year's class is the first to graduate from the SCRUBS program.

"I am privileged to be here," said Mariam Sabas, one of the SCRUBS graduates. "I've been in the military for years, and I never expected to be able to go to school again." Sabas gave special recognition to her mother-in-law, who attended the reception, for exceptional support in helping her achieve her goal. Sabas will be working



FRANK FORTUNE

This year, 12 nursing graduates obtained their educations through the SCRUBS program.

at Wynn Army Medical Hospital at Fort Stewart, and expects to be deployed to Iraq soon.

David Bazanu, a SCRUBS graduate from Nigeria, thanked his fellow students for a much more practical reason. They took turns waking him up in time to get to his clinicals – something all the students were warned never to miss. Bazanu will continue his graduate educa-

tion at Georgia Southern's Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health.

Another student, Cherelle Johnson, entered the SCRUBS program as a step toward becoming a physician, but, said Johnson, "The longer I was in the nursing program, the less I wanted to be a doctor. I'm convinced nursing is where I am supposed to be."

University nursing chair Bartels helps set global standards

School of Nursing Chair and Professor Jean Bartels was one of 30 international leaders in nursing who met recently in Bangkok, Thailand, to begin developing global standards for basic nursing and midwifery education.

Bartels attended as a representative of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to the meeting called by the



Jean Bartels

World Health Organization (WHO).

"The goal of this meeting was to define minimum education standards for an estimated 11 million nurses and midwives around the globe," said Bartels. "If we reach a consensus on minimum requirements for nursing education, the result will be a better educated health care workforce. Ultimately, all nations will have better patient outcomes." While many nations have developed standards for nursing practice and education, the standards apply only to one region or country.

During the three-day meeting, participants developed key elements for proposed standards

in five areas: educational program admission criteria, educational program development requirements, educational program content components, nursing and midwifery faculty qualifications, and nursing and midwifery program graduate qualifications.

The next steps in developing standards include a comprehensive review of the standards that exist, development of proposed global standards, and broad circulation and review of the proposed standards. The target date for completion of the WHO and Sigma Theta Tau report is January 2008.



SPECIAL TO GEORGIA SOUTHERN

Gentlemen, start your engines!

But first weld your frame, fabricate your suspension, bolt on your intake manifold...

At first glance, it appears to be a typical scene in this car-crazy country: a group of young people, gathered around a vehicle, tinkering with the engine, adjusting the suspension, customizing the body.

In this particular case, the people are not shade-tree mechanics prepping a hot rod for an evening at a rural dirt track or a pickup truck for an afternoon at a mud boggin'.

Instead, they are mechanical engineering technology students at Georgia Southern, and they are building from scratch two vehicles that were entered in a pair of international compe-

titions sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE).

One group of 18 students produced a single-seat, four-wheel, off-road recreation vehicle for the Baja competition hosted by the University of Central Florida.

Some of the same people are also among a second group of 15 students that built a single-seat, open-cockpit, open-wheel car for the Formula SAE competition at the Ford Michigan Proving Grounds in Romeo, Mich.

The Baja vehicle, the only one entered from a Georgia university, passed its safety and techni-

cal inspections and completed the demanding course – a first for the MET program. The Formula car suffered a series of technical setbacks that ended the group's title hopes in Michigan. Still, the projects were valuable learning experiences for the team members, said technology professor Brian Vlcek, who serves as faculty mentor for the teams.

"These projects allow our students to validate what they have learned in the classroom," said Vlcek. "They get to demonstrate the ability to work as a team and the ability to complete a project. Those are the kinds of traits that em-



"The Baja and Formula projects require our students to draw upon previously learned skills from across the curriculum. In addition to teamwork and design integration, the projects encourage technical communication abilities through written reports and live presentations." – Brian Vlcek, faculty mentor

players are looking for.

"The Baja and Formula projects require our students to draw upon previously learned skills from across the curriculum," Vlcek said. "In addition to teamwork and design integration, the projects encourage technical communication abilities through written reports and live presentations."

"Ultimately, the work contributes to each student's sense of self-confidence in their abilities as they contribute to a project with real-world authenticity and rigor."

"Quite a few SAE officials came by to see our car," Vlcek said, "and they could not believe a working vehicle was completed on such a tight budget."

According to Vlcek, the Formula teams at some institutions are rumored to pour as much as \$60,000 into the project, a figure that includes spare parts, tools and travel. Georgia Southern's team spends around \$4,500 each year in the Formula competition.

Most of the money for the Baja and Formula projects at Georgia Southern comes from fundraising projects and donations. This year's projects received an additional boost from the COST College Office of Undergraduate Research (COUR), which provided \$3,800 in applied re-



After weeks of design, building and fine-tuning, the Georgia Southern Formula and Baja teams took their vehicles on the road – one group to Michigan and the other to Central Florida – to face nationwide competition.

search grants.

"We've been fortunate to receive the support from COUR," Vlcek said. "It really cut down on the number of car washes the teams had to organize and allowed the students to focus on their vehicle design."

"About half of each vehicle is built from scratch, and half from off-the-shelf components," Vlcek said. "We don't build our own shock absorbers when we can buy them better and cheaper."

Significant parts of each vehicle are fabricated by the students, though.

"We are building the frame, suspension arms, intake manifold, exhaust manifold, pedals and all the brackets used to hold everything together, just to name a few things," said Dustin Gaddis, a senior from Buford, Ga.

Georgia Southern's Formula car is 96 inches long and 60 inches wide. Weighing approximately 500 pounds, it features a 600 cc Suzuki GSX-R engine that produces 100 horsepower and will allow the vehicle to go from zero to 60 mph in 3.8 seconds.

The University's Baja vehicle is 92 inches long and 50 inches wide. It weighs around 420 pounds and has a top speed of close to 30 mph.

"Even though it is a lot of work, there are lots of rewards," said Gaddis. "You get the chance to apply concepts learned in the classroom to a real-world situation, and you also learn a lot of things you don't learn in a classroom."

"Finally, when it comes time to graduate, being a part of a project like this is a great thing to talk about with potential employers."

Health Services collaborating with MCG

By Belinda Phelps

Georgia Southern Health Services is helping to save lives with its participation in three major studies that will contribute to lower rates of cervical cancer and infant mortality.

The studies, which assist in the development of vaccines to prevent Human Papillomavirus (HPV), herpes, and Group B Streptococcus (GBS), have been led by Daron Ferris, MD, director of the Gynecologic Cancer Prevention Center at the Medical College of Georgia (MCG), and his staff, including on-site nurse practitioner Lynn Allmond.

The ultimate goal of the studies is to reduce or eliminate these diseases worldwide.

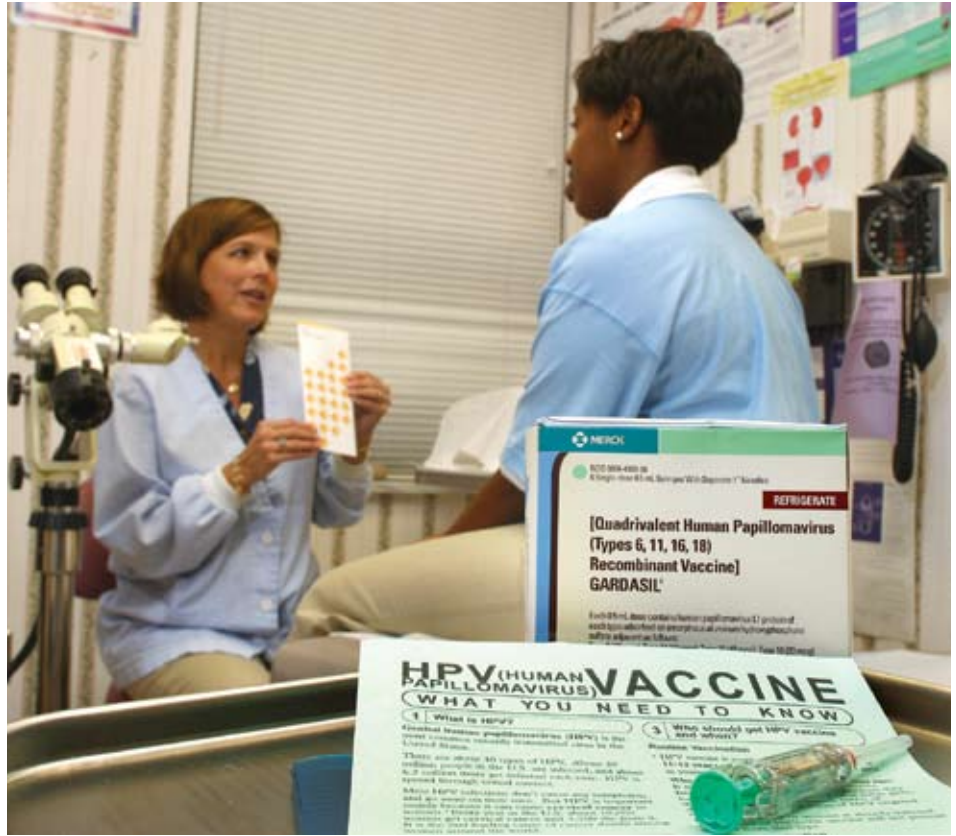
Health Services' role is to assist with advertising, provide clinical space for the study and ancillary support if needed. Allmond explained that three clinical sites – Georgia Southern, the University of Georgia and the MCG – were chosen because they provide opportunities to reach college-aged women.

Each of the studies has a specific intent. HPV is the leading cause of cervical cancer, and diagnosing HPV, reducing the number of cancer cases and decreasing abnormal Pap smears is the aim of the HPV vaccine study. Prevention of infant death and infection is the intent of Group B Strep study. The researchers also want to protect people against Type One and Type Two Herpes.

HPV affects men and women but may not show signs or symptoms. It is estimated that 20 million people in the United States were infected in 2005, and that 50 percent of those sexually active will contract HPV.

Fortunately, an HPV vaccine is being produced and distributed worldwide under the brand name Gardasil®. Vaccination with Gardasil protects against HPV Types 6, 11, 16 and 18, which cause most cases of HPV. It works when taken before there is sexual contact. HPV Types 16 and 18 cause 70 percent of cervical cancer cases, and Types 6 and 11 cause 90 percent of genital wart cases.

Three injections of Gardasil are given over a six-month period. Research is still being conducted on protection from the other types of HPV. The HPV study took place from 2001 to 2004, with approximately 90 participants from Georgia Southern.



FRANK FORTUNE

Health Services' Carol Turknnett advises a student on the benefits of the HPV vaccine.

The University also has served as a clinical site for the herpes simplex virus (HSV) study. The CDC reports that in the U.S. at least 45 million people ages 12 and older, or one out of five adolescents and adults, have had genital HSV infection. "There is no cure for herpes, so the significance of prevention for this disease is very important," said Allmond.

The herpes study is ongoing and 15 people have signed up thus far.

Type One is found on the face and spread mouth to mouth. Type Two is usually in the genital area and causes painful genital sores, tenderness and burning. Type Two could possibly cause infection of the eye and brain.

The strep study, Streptococcal Prevention in Nonpregnant Women, or SPIN Study, was to determine if a vaccine will prevent Type three GBS. Twenty participants from the University took part in the Group B study in 2006.

Group B Strep (GBS) is the most common cause of life-threatening infection in newborns

and a frequent cause of newborn pneumonia. One in four newborns has GBS. Usually adults show no symptoms.

Health Services Administrator Paul Ferguson explained that studies are usually done in three phases and that in phase three, researchers are looking at the effectiveness of the study. Georgia Southern has participated only in phase three of the studies.

Allmond said she is comfortable with the clinical setting and care the University is providing for the study participants. "I wouldn't do it if I didn't want my family enrolled in it," she said. MCG and Health Services are flexible, friendly and accessible to all those interested in participating in the studies. "We spend more hands-on time than your traditional physician," said Allmond.

In the near future, Health Services will also be working with the University's College of Public Health to give students additional research experience.

15 University students receive COUR grants

Georgia Southern's commitment to undergraduate research has been emphasized with the presentation of the third annual Paulson Student Research Awards.

Fifteen students were awarded a total of \$25,000 in research funding from the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology (COST) for the 2007-08 academic year.

The students will present their research during a symposium hosted by the COST College Office of Undergraduate Research (COUR) in April 2008.

"The faculty of COST has always put a great deal of emphasis on research, and the Paulson awards are a great way to encourage our students to get involved," COUR Director Bruce Schulte said. "These funds will help deserving undergraduate students obtain hands-on knowledge of the research process, such as reading the literature, acquiring data, and writing and presenting their findings."

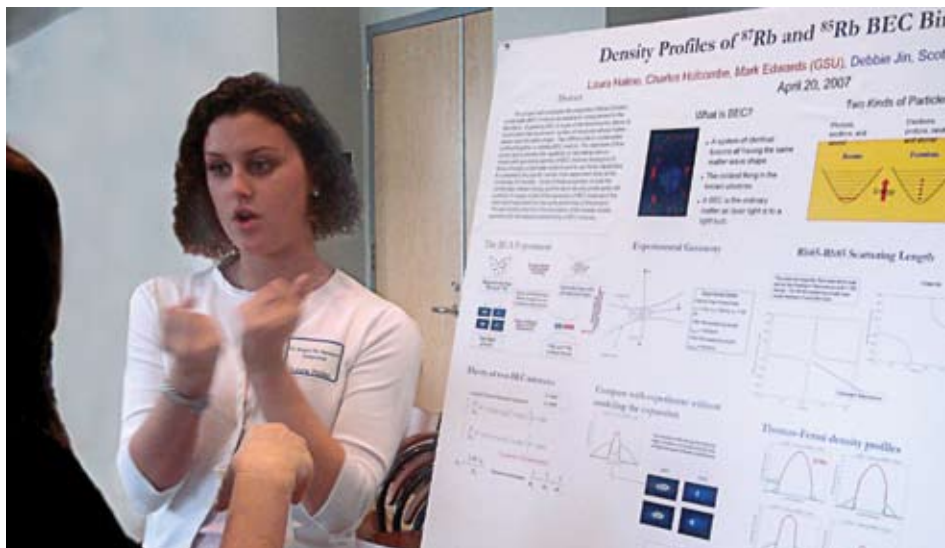
Schulte and the COUR committee reviewed the applications to determine the winners and the amounts of the awards.

"The students went through a very rigorous application process," Schulte said. "The ones who emerged should be very proud of their accomplishments."

The awards are divided into two categories. One is for mathematics or science departments, and one is for technology departments.

The math and science awards were presented to the following students:

- **Thomas Anderson** of Sylvania, Ga., received \$1,300 for his chemistry project, "An Investigation of Raman Spectrometry." Mentor: professor James LoBue.
- **Kristin D'Antignac** of Augusta, Ga., received \$1,750 for her chemistry project, "Fluidic Production of Molecular Hydrogen Using the Biocatalyst Hydrogenase." Mentor: professor Donatarie Stallings.
- **William Edwards** of Douglasville, Ga., received \$1,250 for his mathematics project, "Applescript Code Building and Analysis of iPod Calculus and Differential Equation Applications in College Classrooms." Mentor: professor James Braselton.
- **Laura Halmo** of Suwanee, Ga., received \$500 for her physics project, "Modeling the Dynam-



SPECIAL TO GEORGIA SOUTHERN

Laura Halmo received a grant for her physics project, "Modeling the Dynamics of Mixtures of Bose-Einstein Condensates."

ics of Mixtures of Bose-Einstein Condensates." Mentor: professor Mark Edwards.

- **Philip Marley** of Albany, Ga., received \$2,100 for his biology project, "Demography of the Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) on GLS State Park: Habitat Characteristics, Population Structure and Movement Patterns." Mentor: professor David Rostal.
 - **Joseph McGaughey** of Macon, Ga., received \$2,495 for his biology project, "Investigating the Fate of Ingested Aeromonas Bacteria in the Housefly Midgut." Mentor: professor Dana Naydich.
 - **Rebecca Rosenburg** of Roswell, Ga., received \$2,200 for her biology project, "Novel Spiroplasma Species: Optimal Growth Temperatures and Growth Rates." Mentor: professor Laura Regassa.
 - **Leslie Sutton**, of Columbus, Ga., received \$2,255 for her biology project, "Spatial Variation in Sedimentation Rates on Temperate Reefs of Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary." Mentor: professor Daniel Gleason.
 - **Joseph Waddell** of Marietta, Ga., received \$1,600 for his biology project, "Ontogeny of Carapace Morphology and Behavior in Gopher Tortoises." Mentor: professor Lance McBrayer.
- Technology awards were presented to the following students:

- **Christopher Aiken** of Loganville, Ga., received \$1,950 for his mechanical engineering technology project titled "Robotic Ink Jet Printing." Mentors: professors Don Armel and Hung-Ming Cheng.
- **Josh Caldwell** of Epworth, Ga., received \$780 for his mechanical engineering technology project titled "The Development of Techniques to Increase the Fatigue Life of Common Plastics." Mentor: professor Aniruddha Mitra.
- **Brent Chenhall** of Athens, Ga., received \$500 for his mechanical engineering technology project titled "Vibration Analysis of Metal Tube Structure with Foam Inside." Mentor: Aniruddha Mitra.
- **David Cowart** of Savannah, Ga., received \$1,630 for his mechanical engineering technology project titled "Setup and Update of an Instrument for Measurement of Electron Emission from Sliding Contacts." Mentor: professor Gustavo Molina.
- **Danielle Lopez** of Corrales, N.M., received \$2,390 for her mechanical engineering technology project titled "Solar Vehicle Project 2007." Mentor: professor Anoop Desai.
- **Brendan McKee** of Snellville, Ga., received \$2,500 for his electrical engineering technology project titled "The Design, Analysis and Fabrication of an Automated Robot." Mentor: professor Youakim Kalaani.

International collaboration on new drug protocol

In Karl Peace's classroom in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, international collaboration advanced to a new level during the spring semester.

Peace and three graduate students in his Statistical Issues in Drug Research and Development class – one from India and two from China – along with Saulet Nurtayeva, a visiting medical and radiation oncologist from Kazakhstan, developed a drug trial protocol for *Cordyceps sinensis*, a traditional Chinese herbal medicine.

Nurtayeva will take the protocol back to Kazakhstan and implement it with breast cancer patients in her country.

"Although the fungus *Cordyceps sinensis* is not used here and there are very few studies about it, it is often used in China," said Peace. "Cordyceps is known to be an immuno-modulator, so it affects the immune system. Dr. Nurtayeva brought it to the attention of the class, asking if it would be helpful in ameliorating the side effects of chemotherapy treatment."

Peace asked his students to work with Nurtayeva to design a study that would answer her question. After developing criteria for the Stage II-IV breast cancer patients in chemotherapy who will participate in the study, the group chose to study three groups of patients: those who will be treated with a placebo, those who will be treated with two milliliters of *Cordyceps sinensis*, and those who will be treated with five



LORETTA BRANDON

Saulet Nurtayeva, a visiting scholar from Kazakhstan, worked with Karl Peace and a group of JPHCOPH students to develop a new cancer drug protocol.

milliliters of *Cordyceps sinensis*. Two different doses will be tested to assess whether response is dose-related. Patients meeting the criteria will be enrolled in the *Cordyceps sinensis* drug trial until there are 50 patients in each of the three treatment groups.

Nurtayeva, who has been at Georgia Southern since January 2007 as a guest of the U.S. Department of State, returned to Kazakhstan in

May. She was excited about sharing the protocol and its development with her colleagues.

"In Kazakhstan most doctors don't have experience in how to do clinical trials," said Nurtayeva. "Working with Dr. Peace and his class to develop this protocol, I learned how to conduct the trials, and I got experience using an interdisciplinary team approach to solve problems. Instead of seeing drugs that are the end product of clinical trials, now I know how they are developed and tested."

"Dr. Peace has a lot of practical experience in developing drug trial protocols, and that was a great help to our group," she said. "Because of his experience, he was able to help us find ways to save time and minimize costs. He has been an excellent teacher, and he really encouraged me."

Nurtayeva says that physicians and faculty at West Kazakhstan Medical School, where she is an assistant professor, would like to develop their own drug trial protocols. She plans to share what she has learned, and hopes to encourage her colleagues to develop their own projects.

"The Chinese have 4,000 years of empirical evidence that *Cordyceps sinensis* has a positive effect on the immune system," said Nurtayeva, "but this drug protocol will give us the scientific evidence to prove it. I would like to see scientists continue sharing this kind of knowledge and research. I hope my experience is just the beginning."

Paleontologist Geisler has role in global evolutionary study

University paleontologist Jonathan Geisler teaches a course on dinosaurs, so it should come as no surprise that he has a special interest in evolutionary biology.

Geisler has channeled his curiosity into a project that will try to answer some lingering questions about the evolution of Delphinida, a group of marine mammals that includes dolphins, porpoises, beluga whales and narwhals.

Supported by a \$135,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), Geisler will travel to museums on four continents during the next three years to analyze the skeletons of fossil and living dolphins and porpoises.

A professor in the Department of Geology and Geography and the curator of paleontol-

ogy at the Georgia Southern Museum, Geisler is collaborating with John Gatesy, a molecular biologist in the Department of Biology at the University of California-Riverside.

Gatesy is collecting DNA data for the study, which aims to resolve evolutionary relationships among living and extinct species.

"Evolution is the thread that really ties all disciplines of biology together," Geisler said. "So, in many ways, to gain a basic understanding of a group, one needs to understand how they are related to each other through evolution."

In addition, Geisler will be teaching a course at Georgia Southern that engages undergraduates in the research aspect of his project. Using the data they collect, the students will assist in

reconstructing part of the evolutionary tree of dolphins and porpoises.

"Scientists are currently studying the evolution of brains in primates, with particular emphasis on the development of the human brain," Geisler said. "One of the problems with this area of research is that there is little to compare the evolution of primate brains to."

"Cetaceans – mammals that live their entire lives in the water – have relatively large brains, and our work will provide a case study with which to compare to the evolution of brains in primates."

Geisler's grant from the NSF will be distributed over three years at \$45,000 per year. The project is expected to run through March 2010.

COBA professor Liu earns grant to develop statistical predictors for business costs

Research by College of Business Administration (COBA) professor Jun Liu holds promise to help businesses predict the effect of external factors on their operating costs.

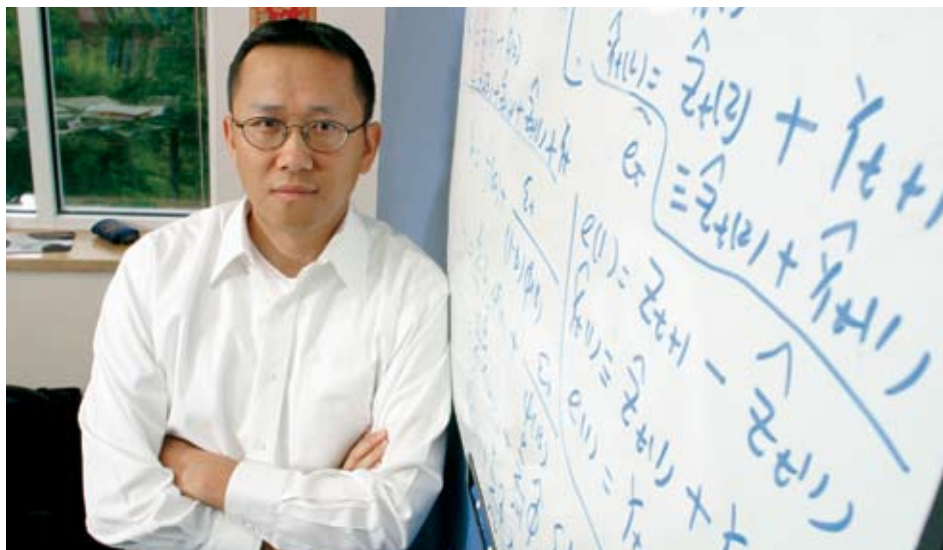
Liu has been awarded a \$105,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for his proposal, "Nonstationary and High-dimensional Nonparametric Transfer Function Models."

"My current research is mainly about methodology and trying to develop new statistical tools, so it involves a lot of theoretical work," said Liu. "The results can be applied in many diverse fields such as economics, finance, biology and environmental science."

For example, he said, his research can be used to study how daily electricity demand is affected by factors like temperature, electricity price or whether it's a weekday, weekend or holiday. "An accurate approximation of this relationship is extremely important in the daily operation of electric companies," said Liu.

"It is not only a financial support, but also a great honor to me," said Liu. "As a junior researcher, being awarded a grant from NSF means that the potential of my research is recognized by the profession."

Only 30 percent of the proposals submitted to the Division of Mathematical Sciences, Sta-



FRANK FORTUNE

COBA professor Jun Liu has been awarded a \$105,000 grant from the NSF.

tistics and Probability Program of the NSF were funded in past years.

Beginning this year, the grant will provide Liu financial support for his research for the next three summers. It also will help pay graduate students to assist, giving them first-hand experience. Liu will be employing his first graduate assistant in the summer of 2008.

Liu joined Georgia Southern in the fall of 2005 but has already established himself as a leader in his field with publications in the *Journal of Forecasting* and the *Journal of Econometrics*. Last year, he was awarded a COBA summer research grant for \$9,000 and has received the Making Statistics More Effective in Schools and Businesses travel grant for \$500.

Damelin takes on Air Force research project

Steve Damelin, a professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, is spending the summer conducting research for the U.S. Air Force.

Damelin was selected to participate in the Air Force Summer Faculty Fellowship Program (SFFP) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

Damelin was awarded the fellowship based on research he has been conducting with American and Israeli groups on image recognition.

"Due to its sensitive nature, I can only say that the project I am working on at Wright-Patterson involves mathematics, such as theory of algorithms," he said.

The SFFP gives specially selected full-time

science and engineering faculty at American colleges and universities hands-on exposure to Air Force research challenges. Open only to citizens and legal permanent residents of the U.S., the program consists of eight- and 12-week research residencies at participating Air Force research facilities.

The SFFP seeks to stimulate professional relationships between the program participants and Air Force scientists and engineers. In addition, the program seeks to enhance the research interests and capabilities of faculty in the U.S. academic community and elevate the awareness of Air Force research interests.

Wright-Patterson is one of the largest installations in the Air Force. In addition to research

and development, the base houses units devoted to acquisition and logistics management, flight operations and advanced education.

Damelin joined Georgia Southern's faculty in 2000. He is the founding director of the Unit for Advances in Mathematics and Its Applications (UAIM). Located within the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology, UAIM fosters advanced research in all areas of mathematics.

During the 2005-06 academic year, Damelin served as the visiting New Directions Professor in Imaging at the Institute for Mathematics and Its Applications at the University of Minnesota.

A native of South Africa, Damelin became a permanent resident of the U.S. in 2004.

Advancement staff adds new faces

University Advancement recently welcomed two new staffers and a third was promoted.

Serving Georgia Southern in the Alpharetta-based Regional Office will be Director of Atlanta Regional Development George Freeman.

A graduate of Harding University, Freeman has served as a director of development for non-profits in Arkansas, Texas and Oregon. He also served as director of development at Auburn University, spearheading that university's recent \$169 million campaign. Freeman can be contacted at (678)387-1729.

Linda G. Griffin comes on board as major gifts officer from Glennville, Ga. She most recently served at Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD).

A graduate of Georgia Southern, Griffin has served as director of development for several non-profits in Georgia, assistant director for the University of Georgia Foundation in Atlanta, director of development for the Professional Association of Georgia Educators Foundation, and as director of major gifts for SCAD. Griffin can be reached by phone at (912)681-5755 or via e-mail at lgriffin@georgiasouthern.edu.

Former scholarship administrator Jill Forehand has been promoted to assistant director of donor relations. She is responsible for creating programs and policies that allow Georgia Southern to give proper recognition to donors, regardless of the size of their gifts.

Forehand graduated cum laude from the University in 1999. She was a 2006 University Award of Merit recipient.

Forehand can be contacted at (912) 871-1702 or at jforehand@georgiasouthern.edu.



Linda Griffin



Jill Forehand



Atlanta Regional Development Director George Freeman and Associate Director Angelia Huggins stand outside Georgia Southern's newly opened Alpharetta headquarters.

Atlanta Regional Office moves

With more than one-third of its students coming from the Greater Atlanta area and with more than one-fourth of its alumni living there, the University has outgrown its former space in Lenox Pointe and has moved to a new location at 3775 Mansell Road in Alpharetta.

"With nearly 15,000 alumni in Atlanta and the surrounding 21-county area, there's a definite need for us to have a presence there," said Michelle Pittman, director of planned giving and major gifts. "As our alumni in the Atlanta area continue to become more active and engaged, this larger office will be our hub for individual meetings and group gatherings. In addition to meeting development needs and events planning for the Atlanta area, it will also serve as a center for students seeking Georgia Southern Admissions information."

The previous location was also staffed by alumni and development representatives. At the new Mansell Road location, a representa-

tive from Georgia Southern's Office of Admissions will be added.

"One-third of our student enrollment – more than 5,600 students – comes from the 21 counties of the Atlanta area, and that number goes up each year," said Pittman. "With an Admissions representative in Alpharetta, we can respond in a more timely way to inquiries from interested students and parents."

Georgia Southern personnel serving in the Alpharetta office will be George Freeman, director of Atlanta Regional Development; Angelia Huggins, associate director of Atlanta Regional Development and Rachel Miller, who will represent the Office of Admissions.

Miller will begin her duties there in November.

Huggins has served Georgia Southern constituents in the Atlanta area for more than a year. She may be contacted at (678)387-1730 or via e-mail at aahuggins@georgiasouthern.edu.

A scholarship fund in memory of

Emory Bohler, MD • 1925-2006 • Emeritus Foundation Board Member
has been established to benefit Georgia Southern pre-medicine students.

Contributors may make checks payable to the Georgia Southern Foundation Inc.,
P.O. Box 8053, Statesboro, Ga. 30460 or may contribute online at
<https://touchpay.georgiasouthern.edu/foundation/>.

Students boost Alumni Phonathon to record

During the 2006 Alumni Phonathon, a team of 25 student callers raised \$313,597 in pledges for the Georgia Southern Foundation's Annual Fund, the largest amount raised in the 26-year history of the Phonathon.

The energetic group exceeded its goal of \$300,000.

"Working with student callers is both a challenge and a pleasure," said Gloria Morgan, the Georgia Southern alumna who directs Phonathon. "Our students contacted 35,000 alumni and parents this year, and they really worked hard to meet their goal. In addition to helping their alma mater, they gained valuable sales and fundraising experience."

This year, four student callers raised \$25,000 or more: Anatoshia Wyatt (\$35,540); Joni Deans (\$33,767); Joseph Ogunsulire (\$30,906) and Kyle Boyer (\$25,795).

Jareitha Bennett has been a team leader for the Phonathon for two years. "My basic responsibility is to manage shifts and student callers." She said she tries to provide motivation to the callers. But before every calling season begins, Bennett helps her advisor find student callers. "I was a full-time caller for three months."

"It's great we have a good group of students that love speaking with alumni," she said. "To manage students that take pride in Georgia Southern makes everything work out great."

Deans was last year's scholarship winner



and is back at the Foundation to compete again.

"I think that I had more confidence going into it this year. I didn't expect such good results last year, but it wasn't as hard to raise the money as I thought," she said.

Ogunsulire is a senior pre-med biology major who has reached the \$25,000 mark. According to Ogunsulire, each caller has a list of contacts. When he calls people on his lists he tells them a little about what is going on at

the University and asks them to donate to the Foundation. Often the alumni and parents he talks to have questions of their own.

"Sometimes they ask about football, and some parents have specific questions, and sometimes they just ask basic questions like how many students go here," said Ogunsulire.

"Some say they want to give before we ask, as soon as they find out where we're calling from, and they're excited," said Ogunsulire.

The annual Phonathon is Georgia Southern's largest source of unrestricted funds. In 2002, the calling process was automated, so now, instead of working at banks of phones, students work at individual computers with headsets, making calls and recording results.

For many alumni, a Phonathon call is the only personal contact they have with the University. Student callers are always happy to discuss new developments, answer questions about the University, and update contact information. In making their request for a gift, the student caller acts as both a representative and a fundraiser for the University Foundation.

Each year's Phonathon team has raised at least \$200,000 for the Foundation since 1997. Money raised for the Annual Fund is used to support initiatives on campus not covered by state money, tuition, and fees, such as the Georgia Southern Museum, cultural outreach programs and library resource materials.

Family and friends honor the late Fred Hodges with scholarship in his name

Bulloch County students who plan to attend Georgia Southern will benefit from a new scholarship created to honor the late Fred W. Hodges.

The scholarship will be awarded to outstanding new freshmen from any accredited Bulloch County school and will be renewable for four years as long as the student remains enrolled as an undergraduate.

"Fred's parents and grandparents believed strongly in education," said his widow, Betty Hodges. "He also believed in education, so a scholarship is a wonderful way to honor his memory. Although he eventually earned his degree from the University of Georgia, he earned many of his college credits right here at Georgia Southern."

Hodges, a Bulloch County native, died in October 2006. He had been active in the communications industry for more than 30 years with Bulloch Telephone Cooperative and Planters Telephone Cooperative, where he was manager.

"Mr. Hodges was a wonderful co-worker," said Cecile Bolineau, who served as his assistant at Bulloch Telephone. "He offered encouragement and respect to everyone, especially in the area of education. He was a true southern gentleman. His colleagues at Bulloch Telephone are pleased that a scholarship has been created in his honor."

Hodges operated a farm on land just outside of Statesboro that belonged to his family for more than 200 years. As a lifelong resident,

he enjoyed Bulloch County and its history. He was an active member of the First Methodist Church and served a variety of civic organizations including the Jaycees and the Humane Society.

Fred and Betty Hodges met shortly after completing high school. They were married for 57 years and raised a daughter and two sons.

Hodges was instrumental in creating two other scholarships at Georgia Southern, including the Fred W. Hodges Jr. Memorial Scholarship.

More information about scholarships for freshman students is available at http://admissions.georgiasouthern.edu/scholarship_criteria.htm.



SPECIAL TO GEORGIA SOUTHERN

Paulson Stadium concourse getting a facelift

By Mark Holland

The “prettiest little stadium in America” is getting a makeover.

When Georgia Southern fans file into Paulson Stadium to root for the Eagles during the 2007 season, they will discover that the concourse on the south side has undergone a remarkable transformation.

The white block walls and plain concrete walkway that defined the area between the press box and the concession stands for

more than two decades are being replaced by red bricks, decorative pavers and concrete squares.

Trees and planters will add even more variety and appeal to the concourse, which has served hundreds of thousands of spectators since the stadium first opened in 1984.

“We’re trying to create the feeling of a lively plaza,” said Chuck Taylor, an award-winning landscape architect for the University and the man in charge of the project. “With the bricks and the pavers and the plants, the new con-

course will have a lot more color.

“Aesthetically speaking, it should be much more pleasing.”

Technically speaking, Paulson Stadium’s makeover began prior to the 2005 season. That’s when a brick facade was added to the concrete walls that border the playing surface on each sideline, and the chain link fence beyond the east end zone was replaced by a brick facade.

Supported by Southern Boosters, the work continued in 2006 with the construction of the

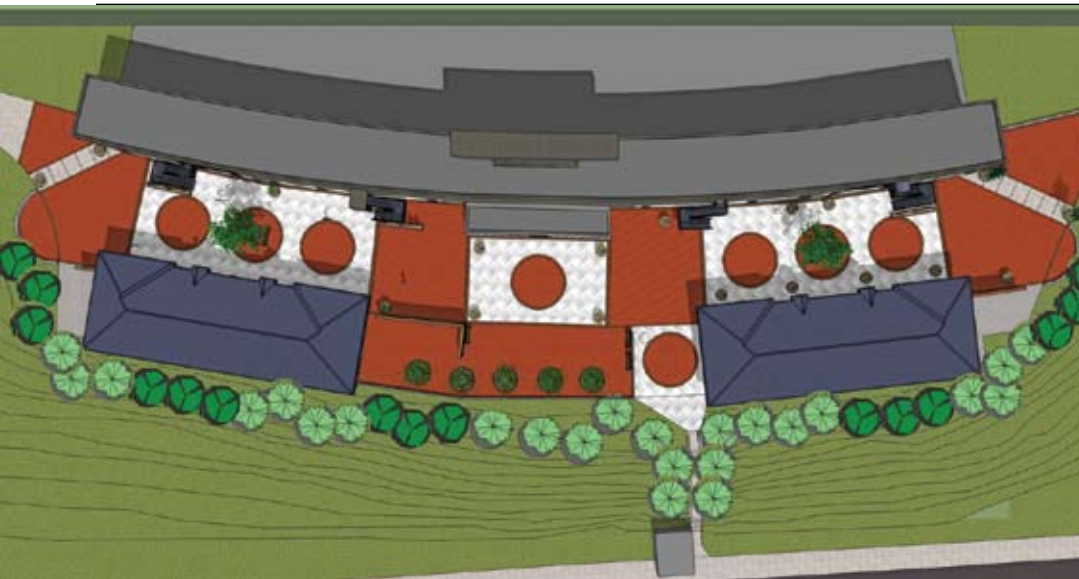
Georgia Southern sports in brief

FOOTBALL – Former quarterback Tracy Ham became the first Georgia Southern coach or athlete selected for induction into the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind.

ACADEMICS – Senior tennis player Heather Reynolds is the 2007 recipient of the Dorothy Hicks Graduate Scholarship presented by the Southern Conference to a female student-athlete who is interested in attending graduate school ... Reynolds, football player Dusty Reddick, and women’s soccer player Laura-Ashley Harris were named Scholar-Athletes of the Year by the University.

BASEBALL – Senior reliever A.J. Battisto was named to the All-Southern Conference second team by the league’s coaches. Battisto was selected in the 30th round of the MLB draft by the Florida Marlins ... Senior outfielder Mike Economos was named to the All-SoCon second team selected by the media.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL – Junior guard Tiffany Brown was named to the All-Southern Conference teams selected by the coaches and the media ... Guard Carolyn Whitney was named SoCon freshman of the year by both the coaches and the media.



Gene Bishop Field House in the west end zone and the addition of an attractive brick and decorative metal fence on the stadium's most visible boundary.

Budgeted at \$1 million, the concourse renovation was designed by Taylor, who was assisted by University architects Robert Hagan and Haroun Hodayun. The actual work began on the morning of May 7 – less than 48 hours after Paulson Stadium welcomed an overflow crowd for the University's annual Spring Commencement ceremony.

At each end of the concourse, the entrance has been framed with two large planters. Two live oak trees are being planted in tree wells located in the middle of the walkway near each end of the concourse. Benches will flank the trees, which will be about 12 feet high, but which will eventually grow to a height of approximately 30 feet.

Meanwhile, the two buildings that house the

concession stands, restrooms and University Store souvenir shop are being covered with bricks and gray metal roofs that match the Gene Bishop Field House. The men's and women's restrooms are being completely refurbished with new toilets and sinks, and there will be additional stalls for physically challenged fans. The previously bare concrete floors are being covered with tile, and diaper-changing stations are being installed in both restrooms.

Planters will be stationed along the front of the concession stands and next to the stairs that lead to the press box and private boxes. Also, the space behind the concession stands is being landscaped with trees and plants that will result in a much more attractive view of the area from the reserved parking lot.

"We really wanted to get some greenery into the concourse, and provide a little bit of shade, too," Taylor said. "I think the fans are going to like what they see."

A RECORD OF SUCCESS

Southern Boosters has funded more than \$13.6 million in new construction and major renovations since 1996:

New Construction \$9.2 million

- Michael Wiggins Baseball Building
- Bishop Academic Enhancement Center
- Dan. J. Parrish Sr. Football Center
- Troy and Mozelle Cowart Building
- J.I. Clements Stadium
- Iron Works weight training center
- Track and Soccer Complex
- Gene Bishop Field House
- Bennett-Ramsey Golf Center
- Howard House
- Herring Pavilion

Major Renovations \$3.4 million

- Hanner Fieldhouse seating and scoreboards
- Paulson Stadium Eagle Vision
- Paulson Stadium public address system
- J.I. Clements Stadium batting cages
- Softball playing field
- Football locker room
- Sports medicine/athletic training center
- Eagle Club seating
- Re-surface tennis courts
- Paulson Stadium brick façade
- Michael Curry Men's Basketball Locker Room
- Women's basketball locker room
- Parrish Building Hall of Fame
- Paulson Stadium beautification

MEN'S BASKETBALL – Senior Donte Gennie was named to the All-Southern Conference team by the coaches ... Gennie and senior Louis Graham were named to the All-SoCon second team by the media.

SWIMMING AND DIVING – Mindy Czech was named the 2007 Northeast Conference Diving Coach of the Year ... Freshman Mackenzie Garrot was named Outstanding Rookie of the Meet for her performances at the 2007 NEC Conference Championships.

SOFTBALL – Junior pitcher Melissa Laliberte was named to the All-Southern Conference second team.

TRACK AND FIELD – The Eagles earned their first-ever SoCon Outdoor Championship, winning seven events at the conference meet ... Senior Nicole Brown became the first athlete in school history to qualify for the NCAA Championships. She won the triple jump at the East Regional and qualified in the long jump ... The Eagles dominated the SoCon awards as Natalie Smith was named coach of the year, Brown was tabbed track athlete of the year and Jessica Irizarry was selected freshman of the year.



SUZANNE OLIVER

Three generations of Hatchers await the start of the Chris Hatcher era at Paulson Stadium. L-R are Susan Hatcher; her son and Eagles head coach Chris; his wife, Lori; and dad Edgar. In front is Lori and Chris' son, Ty, who now has a little sister, Tallie Ann, born this summer.

GIVEN HIS FAMILY HISTORY,
COACHING COMES NATURALLY
FOR EAGLES' COACH CHRIS HATCHER

FAMILY MATTERS

BY MARK HOLLAND

Clearly, it was something that Chris Hatcher had never really considered. Leaning back in a chair, he pondered the question for a moment, and then repeated it before finally providing an illuminating answer.

“When did I decide that I wanted to be a coach?” Hatcher asked as he broke into a broad smile. “To tell you the truth, I can’t remember when I didn’t want to be a coach.”

Of course, when you’re the son of a coach, and five other people in your extended family are members of the same profession, maybe you don’t have much of a choice.

Perhaps, when you grow up accompanying your dad to football games and baseball games and wrestling tournaments and track meets, you become a coach by osmosis.

“I never encouraged Chris to follow me into coaching,” said his father, Edgar Hatcher. “It was something he decided on his own.”

Fated or not, Chris Hatcher’s career has led him to Georgia Southern. It’s a pairing of a man who quite literally has coaching in his blood with a football program whose fans consider winning national championships a birthright.

“I know all about the high expectations that come with being the football coach at a place like this,” Hatcher said. “That’s part of what attracted me to the job, because I have high expectations for myself, too.”

“Nobody wants to win more than the old Hatch man, I can promise you that.”

WHERE IT BEGAN

The young Hatch man grew up in Macon, where he attended Mount de Sales Academy, a private Catholic school that was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1876.

As a three-sport star for the Cavaliers, Chris Hatcher followed in the footsteps of his father, who earned 12 varsity letters at Mount

de Sales and a scholarship to Florida State University.

After graduating from college, Edgar Hatcher moved back to the Middle Georgia area and began what would be a long and productive high school coaching career. At Monroe Academy in Forsyth, he guided the football team to two private-school state championships and then returned to Macon to work in the Bibb County School System.

Edgar Hatcher and his wife, Susan, also found the time to start a family. Born in 1973, Chris was the first child, and he was followed by two girls.

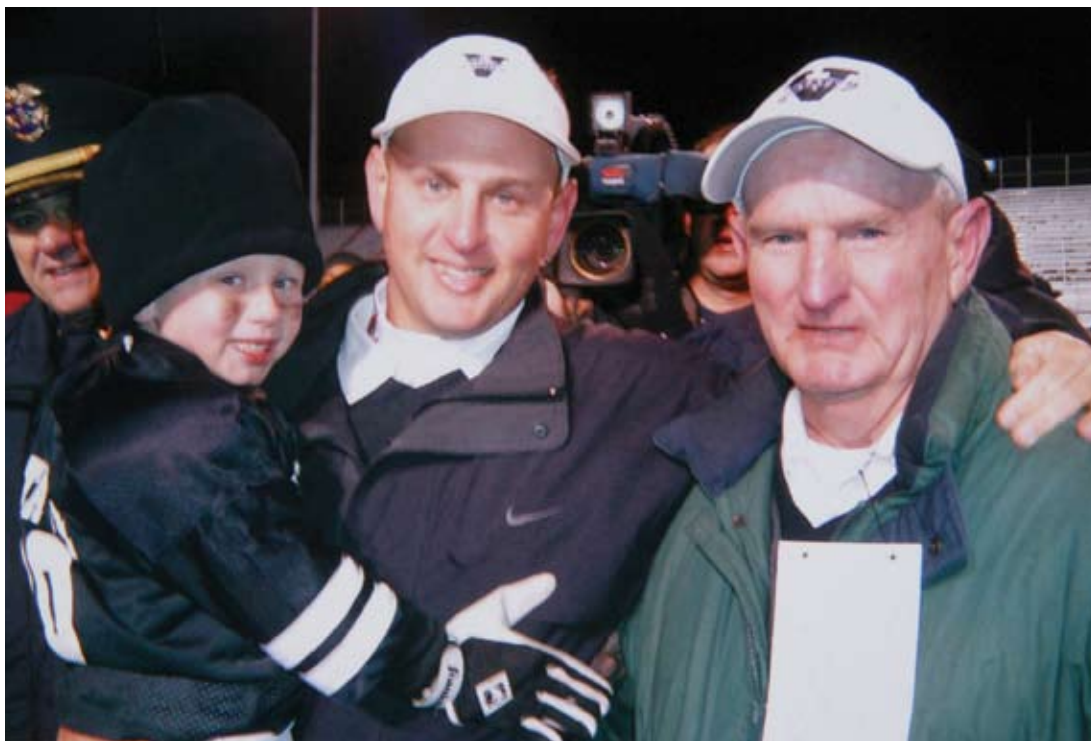
In Macon, Edgar Hatcher coached a variety of sports, most notably at Southwest High School and Northeast High School. And, more often than not, when there was a game or practice session to attend, the father arrived with his young son at his side.

“Chris has always loved sports, and he enjoyed being around the teams I was coaching,” Edgar Hatcher said. “He was a manager for the football team and a batboy for the baseball team. No matter what season it was, he was there.”

A STAR ATHLETE

The coaches at Mount de Sales could say the same thing as Chris Hatcher earned all-state honors as a quarterback for the football team, a point guard for the basketball team and a shortstop for the baseball team.





SPECIAL TO GEORGIA SOUTHERN

Ty, Chris and Edgar Hatcher are ready to celebrate Valdosta State's 2004 national championship.

**"ALL I CAN
PROMISE YOU
IS THAT WE'RE
GOING TO
PUT THE BEST
PLAYERS ON THE
FIELD, WE'RE
GOING TO COACH
'EM UP AND
WE'RE GOING TO
PLAY HARD,"**

— CHRIS HATCHER

"Chris had a lot of natural ability, but he worked hard to make the most of it," Edgar Hatcher said. "He took practice more seriously than any young person I've ever seen. He never missed an opportunity to make himself a better player."

Chris Hatcher's combination of talent and work ethic paid off with a scholarship to Valdosta State. At 5-foot-10, he lacked the height that most prolific passers possess, but he still mastered the Blazers' trend-setting aerial offense, which would soon be dubbed "the Hatch attack."

A two-time All-American, Hatcher threw for 11,363 yards and 121 touchdowns in his college career, setting 29 school records and several national marks along the way. As a senior in 1994, he won the Harlon Hill Trophy, Division II football's version of the Heisman.

Despite the demands of being a college athlete, Hatcher found the time to excel in the classroom, too. He was a two-time winner of the Gulf South Conference Commissioner's Trophy, which is presented annually to the most outstanding student-athlete in the league.

To top it all off, Hatcher's future wife, Lori, also attended Valdosta State.

"I can't tell you how much I enjoyed college – athletically, academically and socially," Hatcher said. "But when it was over, I knew it was time to go work."

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS

Coaching is a common calling in the Hatcher family.

For example: Chris's football coach at Mount de Sales was his second cousin, Mike Garvin. A first cousin, Keith Hatcher, serves as the secondary coach for Georgia Southern's football team. Another first cousin, Ricky Turner, is the athletics director and head football coach at Blessed Trinity Catholic High School in Roswell, Ga. Yet another first cousin, Jan Azar, is the girls' basketball coach at the Wesleyan School in Norcross, Ga.

"I guess you could say coaching's in my blood," Chris Hatcher said. "All I can tell you for sure is that I've never wanted to do anything else."

He began his own career as a student assistant at Valdosta State. That was followed by one season at Central Florida, where he coached future NFL Pro Bowler Daunte Culpepper, and three seasons at Kentucky, where he coached Tim Couch, who was the first pick in the 1999 NFL draft.

In 2000, Hatcher returned to his alma mater as head coach. At the tender age of 26, he inherited a Valdosta State team that was coming off a 4-7 campaign, but the Blazers went 10-2 and advanced to the national playoffs in his first season.

It was the first of six consecutive postseason berths for Valdosta State, which was the national runner-up in 2002 and the national champion in 2004. In seven seasons under Hatcher, the Blazers were 76-12.

REBUILDING A DYNASTY

That impressive record was the primary reason that Georgia Southern Athletics Director Sam Baker turned to Hatcher following the abrupt departure of head coach Brian VanGorder, who resigned on Jan. 16 after just one season with the Eagles to accept a position with the Atlanta Falcons.

Three days later, Hatcher agreed to become the sixth head coach in the modern history of Georgia Southern's football program.

"There were a lot of qualified candidates," Baker said, "but Chris Hatcher was someone I felt embodied all we were looking for."

More specifically, Hatcher arrived with strong recruiting ties to the prep football hot-

beds of Georgia and Florida that have always been so important to the success of the Eagles. In addition, he brought a high degree of youthful enthusiasm and optimism that appears to have rejuvenated a fan base that was extremely disappointed by last year's 3-8 record.

"Coach Hatcher and I have been traveling together to Eagle Club meetings all spring, and I've really enjoyed getting to know him as a person," Baker said. "When you hire a coach, you check all of the references, but until you actually spend some time with them, you don't really know what they're like as a person.

"I've learned that Coach Hatcher's a very engaging young man who's full of energy. I don't think there's any doubt that he's made a favorable impression on our fans."

THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS

The Hatcher era at Georgia Southern will begin with a home game against West Georgia on Sept. 8. Ironically, Hatcher's final contest as Valdosta State's head coach was a 38-13 victory over West Georgia last November.

Although Hatcher has yet to coach his first game with the Eagles, his down-to-earth persona and reputation for finding creative ways to put points on the scoreboard have prompted Baker to compare him to Erk Russell and Paul Johnson, the most successful – and, not coinci-

dentally, the most popular – coaches in Georgia Southern history.

"Several people who have met Coach Hatcher have told me that he reminds them of Coach Russell in how optimistic he is," Baker said. "At the same time, having watched him coach, he reminds me of Coach Johnson. As the head coach, he's focused on the whole team, but he has an offensive mindset that is really unique."

Hatcher's pass-first-and-ask-questions-later philosophy was on display in April's annual Blue-White spring game. With a crowd of 5,400 curious spectators on hand in Paulson Stadium, the two teams combined for 84 passes and only 45 running plays.

It was a stark contrast to the triple-option that the Eagles employed through the 2005 season. VanGorder scrapped the ground-oriented attack in favor of a passing offense, and the team remains a work-in-progress under its third head coach in three seasons.

Thanks to the attrition that normally takes place when there are coaching changes, as well as an effort to find players who are better suited to play in a passing offense, the roster has undergone massive turnover over the past two years.

For example, there were 80 sophomores, red-shirt freshmen and true freshmen listed in the 2005 media guide, but only 40 of those players

were still on the team at the end of this year's spring practice. By the same token, 16 transfers from other schools have joined the squad since the end of the 2005 season.

The fact that the Eagles play in the highly competitive Southern Conference has made the process even more difficult. The league includes two-time defending national champion Appalachian State, perennial playoff participant Furman and always-tough Wofford.

Having inherited a team in transition and a rugged conference schedule, Hatcher refuses to make a prediction on precisely when the Eagles will ascend to their accustomed perch at the summit of the Football Championship Series (formerly known as Division I-AA). The program is five years removed from its last post-season victory, and seven years removed from its last national title.

"All I can promise you is that we're going to put the best players on the field, we're going to coach 'em up and we're going to play hard," Hatcher said.

Eventually, however, the new coach expects the Eagles to hoist their seventh national championship banner on the flagpole at Paulson Stadium.

"Our goal is to put Georgia Southern back on top," Hatcher said. "If we didn't think we could do it, we wouldn't be here."

Sam Says...

So much of what we work toward in life pays dividends down the road.

We have seen two members of our Georgia Southern athletic family reap particularly sweet rewards this spring. In the fall of 1999, Georgia Southern introduced indoor and outdoor women's track and field as new sport offerings. In the early days of the program, under the leadership of Todd Lane, the team had to practice on a track off campus as Georgia Southern needed to build a competition and practice facility on campus.

That goal became a reality in the fall of 2005, when the track/soccer stadium opened. This facility has provided our track student-ath-



Sam Baker

letes a valuable venue in which to practice and compete, and it gave our program an outstanding recruiting tool. It has been a great thrill to watch this program mature. This spring, the women's track team captured its first Southern Conference Championship. Eight of our student-athletes earned the right to move on to the NCAA Regionals in Gainesville, Fla.

While competing at Regionals, Nicole Brown, from Lawrenceville, Ga., won the triple jump competition. Her victory earned her a berth in the NCAA Championships in Sacramento, Calif. Nicole's best long jump mark this spring also qualified her for that event. It is exciting for all of us to now have an individual competing at the NCAA Championships, representing Georgia Southern University as a whole.

We congratulate the team for their Southern Conference Championship and also commend the hard work of Natalie Smith, who, in her first year as head coach, was recognized as the

Southern Conference Coach of the Year.

It was also a great thrill for the institution to receive word that Tracy Ham will be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind., this July.

When football was re-introduced to Georgia Southern in 1982 and took root in the early '80s, the two names that became immediately synonymous with the program were Erk Russell and Tracy Ham. Indeed, many even referred to the offense as "The Hambone." Tracy went on to have an outstanding career in the Canadian Football League and is warmly remembered by the entire Georgia Southern community for his exploits while wearing the Blue and White.

Of the 4.7 million who have played college football, a little more than 800 individuals have earned a place in the College Football Hall of Fame. Now one of those select few is a Georgia Southern Eagle.



PHOTOS BY FRANK FORTUNE

Nearly every graduate of Georgia Southern can point to a professor who was instrumental in setting a definitive career direction or overcoming a major hurdle.

With passion for their disciplines and ability to impart that enthusiasm to students, these teachers are synonymous with great scholarship.

The best professors move seamlessly between three primary activities – teaching, research, and service – using each leg of the proverbial “academic stool” to enrich and broaden the others.

Individually, each leg has great value. Collectively, they are essential.

“There’s a reason why a stool doesn’t stand on two legs or on one, but on three,” said University Provost Linda Bleicken. “Those research agendas inform, certainly, what professors talk about in class, but also how they think every day,” said Bleicken. “Very often, this research is something you don’t do just by yourself. Professors engage their students because it’s helpful for them to have students participating. That’s truly what sets Georgia Southern apart in so many ways, particularly at the undergraduate level,” she said. “I don’t know how you can more effectively excite students about a discipline by getting them, not just mentally engaged in it, but sometimes physically engaged in the whole process.

“Professors whose research engages students in the teaching process are also more likely to successfully link those to the service leg of the stool,” Bleicken said, and in a region that has been traditionally underserved in the arts, sciences, humanities and economic development, the impact of higher education can be far-reaching.

“Very often these are the same ones who are out there actively serving the broader environment,” she added. “The fact is, those three legs of the stool, working together, can help to elevate the quality of life for all of the people in this region – this whole part of the country.”

SCHOLARSHIP MADE PERSONAL



PASS IT ON

Marine biologist J.B. Claiborne treats students to cutting edge knowledge

Growing up on the beaches east of Jacksonville, Fla., it's no surprise J.B. Claiborne makes a living studying how and why ocean creatures do what they do.

"My dad spent some time as a charter commercial fisherman," said the University marine biologist. "I was always on the ocean or hanging out on the beach with my buddies, seining and catching whatever we could catch and seeing what we found. That was always fun. Still is."

That enthusiasm for all things marine carries over into his research and classroom teaching, helping him recently land a new \$650,000 National Science Foundation grant to further his study of osmoregulation – how the gills fish use to breathe also control the animals' acid and salt levels.

"I've always figured that my strong suit was to be enthusiastic and try to rub some of that off on even the folks who weren't science majors," said Claiborne. "They can see that there's something useful to them. It's fun to do that with the non-majors because they start to see that science involves them even though they're not going to be biology majors," he said.

"If I go to a major class, I often will bring in specific data from my field or data that I've heard at presentations and present that as part of my lectures so they really do get a feeling for what the state of the field is in that particular area," Claiborne said. "Where I get the personal interaction is when I have undergraduates or grad students work in the lab with me – because then you're working side by side at the bench, you're learning techniques, you're troubleshooting, you're reading papers together."

"Part of the fun of science is having something not work and saying, 'Okay, what do we do to fix it? How do we get it work?' It's such a neat option that undergraduates have, to be able to work in a lab," said Claiborne. "They learn that in a real research lab you might spend a few weeks trying to troubleshoot something, especially in molecular biology, but then it is even

more satisfying when it finally works and you make an observation that has never been made before."

"One of our collaborators, Dr. Mark Donowitz at Johns Hopkins Medical School, is using the information from our fish work to compare with the function of human intestinal proteins in an effort to work on cures for intestinal diseases – so that is a direct application of our basic research applied to biomedicine," said Claiborne.

"We use fish as a model – understanding the fish gill and how it transports salts and oxygen and carbon dioxide," he said. "It's the same function that our kidneys or our lungs do, so once students learn the basic cellular mechanisms, they can understand mammalian systems just as easily."

Claiborne has conducted summer research around some of the world's top scientists at the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory (MDIBL) in Maine since 1979.

"The lab I work at in Maine is an internationally known physiological and biomedical research site," he said. "We had a speaker two summers ago who was a recent Nobel Prize winner. He had done his work on a particular kind of protein in the cell membrane that's similar to what we study in my lab. When I returned to GSU in the fall," said Claiborne, "I added a three-hour segment into my animal physiology lecture talking about his particular kind of protein, the things that I learned in his talk, and included data from his talk and his research that won the Nobel Prize."

"These scientists at the MDIBL are the people who have written the textbooks," Claiborne said. "That adds to my enthusiasm every year. I can stay up with what's going on with the top-notch folks in the world and keep my own research area up to date. I then get to work at a place like Georgia Southern, where I can still interact with a lot of students, which you don't get to do at a research-only university, and try to pass that on."

—DAVID THOMPSON

JAMES B. CLAIBORNE

Ph.D., physiology, University of Miami
B.S., biology, Florida State University

Invited Seminars/Presentations:

Morehouse University, University of Georgia, University of Florida, University of Uppsala – Sweden, University of Goteborg – Sweden, Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology – Chicago, Australian and New Zealand Society of Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry, Society of Experimental Biology - York, England

Awards:

Received Award for Excellence in Research/Creative Scholarly Activity, Georgia Southern University

Memberships & Activities:

Board of Trustees Mount Desert Island Biological Research Laboratory; Society for Experimental Biology; Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology; Association of Southeastern Biologists; Sigma Xi



THOMAS CASE

Ph.D. Social Psychology, University of Georgia; M.S. Social Psychology, University of Georgia; B.A. Psychology, Davidson College

Honors: Georgia Southern University Excellence in Service Award (1995); Crider Award for Excellence in Contributions to Instruction (2003); Georgia Southern University Award for Excellence in Contributions to Instruction (2004)

Professional Activities: Editorial Board for the Journal of Education for MIS (1993 - 1998); Managing Editor, Journal of Education for MIS (1998); Managing Editor, Journal of Informatics Education Research (1999-Present)

INVOLVEMENT INC.

'Engagement' is Tom Case's key to success in classroom and community

After more than 25 years in academia, Tom Case has discovered it's difficult to focus on any one of the three prime aspects of professorship: teaching, research and service.

"Much of the research that I am currently involved in focuses on teaching effectiveness," said Case, interim chair of the Department of Information Systems (IS) in the College of Information Technology (CIT). "I want to promote and build knowledge of how to be an effective IS teacher, and when I share that with others through journal articles and conference presentations, I am providing a service to the profession. So, where does the separation occur?"

Since joining Georgia Southern, Case has excelled not only in the classroom but in service to the University and the community.

While he considers his teaching style "eclectic, depending upon the size, level and type of class," Case stressed that the common denominator for learning and student success to occur in his courses is "by making students articulate their views."

"As the instructor, I get to choose the starting point for the discussion. 'Let's look at this quote from the assigned reading,' or 'Let's discuss this article in today's *Wall Street Journal*,'" said Case. "I control the flow of the exchange and guide it through focal questions. But there is so much that they (students) learn from each other."

While he relishes the give-and-take of the classroom, Case emphasized his belief in the power of engaging students through written assignments. Even though Case admits he's spent more than one weekend wondering why he gave students a writing assignment, he reminds himself of writing's potentially "magical" qualities.

"Writing forces people to think, and it provides one of the truest gauges of students' knowledge. Those that can clearly explain, describe and articulate their points tend to be successful students while they are here and successful wherever life takes them after graduation," Case stated.

While the ultimate goal is student learning, Case said the process be-

gins with enthusiasm. "Students have to be able to see that I'm engaged and excited about my discipline. Enthusiasm comes across to students," Case said, adding that the majority of student evaluations he's received have mentioned how he demonstrated his interest for the material.

"That's important, otherwise I'm not teaching the right thing," Case said.

In addition to teaching, Case is serving a fourth stint as acting chair of the IS department.

Answering the call to service is second nature to Case. After earning a doctorate from the University of Georgia, Case accepted a position in Georgia Southern's School of Business, now the College of Business Administration (COBA). In the 1980s, as the growth of technology changed business education, the University needed instructors capable of teaching management of information systems (MIS). Case responded by attending professional development training offered by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business in order to teach MIS courses.

"It's been my desire to meet the needs of my school, college and University and plug in where I'm needed," stated Case.

In satisfying that desire to serve, Case has chaired numerous university-level committees as well as committees within COBA and CIT and maintains memberships in a number of professional organizations.

Case's commitment to service also extends into the community. A strong proponent of service, Case extols its virtue to his students in classes.

"I encourage my students upon graduation to be actively involved in community service – if you want the community to embrace you, you have to be actively involved in your community," he said. "You can't move forward as a person or in a profession without being engaged. You have to talk to others around you to find out what you or your company can do to help."

—PHILLIP BROWN

DANIEL R. CZECH

Ph.D., Sport Psychology, University of Tennessee-Knoxville; M.S., Kinesiology, Georgia Southern University; B.S., Psychology and Physical Education, Denison University

Presentations: International Conference on Education, Honolulu, Hawaii; 4th International Symposium for Adapted Physical Activity, Seoul, South Korea; VISTA 2003 Conference, Bollnas, Sweden; Austrian Baseball Federation, Vienna, Austria; South African Baseball Union, Cape Town, South Africa; Finnish National Baseball Federation, Helsinki, Finland



MIND AND MUSCLE

Dan Czech's 'serving mindset' bridges classroom and training room

Chronic shoulder problems that threatened his college baseball career turned out to be a blessing in disguise for Dan Czech. “I went through a couple of traumatic injuries that forced me to utilize psychological skills to help me get back to consistent performance,” said Czech, who played first base at Denison University, a private liberal arts institution in east central Ohio. “This experience fascinated me to the point where I realized that there were probably other athletes out there that need help.”

The delicate interaction between mind and muscle led the native of Canton, Ohio, to pursue a career in sport psychology.

Czech is the director of the Graduate Program in the University's Department of Health and Kinesiology, and he serves as co-coordinator of the Sport Psychology graduate program.

In addition to teaching a variety of sport and exercise psychology courses, Czech assists the Georgia Southern athletics department by helping athletes and coaches deal with the mental aspects of their respective sports.

During the summer, he circles the globe as an envoy for Major League Baseball International, developing the sport and teaching sport psychology in more than 35 countries. He also finds the time to be a mental consultant for numerous professional athletes in Major League Baseball and the National Football League.

“I find the differences and similarities in how elite performers think to be fascinating,” Czech said. “Working with professional athletes is enjoyable, especially with the trust that forms between me and the client.”

“It's very special when I am able to help them help themselves.”

He carries the same philosophy into the classrooms and laboratories of the Hollis Building and Hanner Fieldhouse.

“I have always had a serving mindset, and I enjoy helping others learn and grasp ideas and concepts,” Czech said. “Moreover, I think it is invigorating to see the proverbial ‘aha’ moment when students gain an under-

standing on a topic.

“All in all, my passion for teaching comes back to connecting and helping students.”

Czech's graduate students spend a lot of time in the sport psychology lab, a three-room complex that contains sundry equipment and instruments. The students also get a chance to accompany Czech on a unique field trip to New York City, where they help college football players prepare themselves psychologically for the NFL Scouting Combine.

“There are both opportunities and responsibilities for students in my classes,” Czech said. “Their opportunity is to learn and share. Their responsibilities are to expand their own mindsets and improve their intellects.”

“I am a firm believer that too many students take classes simply to increase their grade point average, as opposed to seizing an opportunity to learn and share. I want my students to focus all of their concentration not toward grade outcome, but rather toward gaining a synthesis of knowledge and doing the best they can. If they do this, success is imminent.”

Czech has been published in numerous professional and academic journals and is close to completing a psychology of coaching textbook with Jack Stallings, the legendary former coach of the Eagle baseball team.

Speaking of coaches, Czech's wife, Mindy, is the coach of University's diving team. In fact, she was named Northeast Conference Coach of the Year for the 2006-2007 season.

“A few years ago, my wife and I had to choose between a school in California and Georgia Southern, and I feel like we made the perfect choice,” Czech said. “There is not a day that goes by that I do not enjoy the drive into Sweetheart Circle. The campus is beautiful, and the staff, faculty and administrators that I work with are wonderful. I feel that I am supported at every level.”

—MARK HOLLAND



KARL MANRODT

Ph.D., Logistics, University of Tennessee
M.S., Logistics, Wright State University
BA, Philosophy and Psychology,
Wartburg College

Awards: Chancellor's Citation for Professional Promise, University of Tennessee; The Walter Melville Bonham Dissertation Scholarship University of Tennessee; E. Grosvenor Plowman Award by the Council of Logistics Management

Presentations: Council of Logistics Management; Institute for Industrial Engineers; American Marketing Association (Vienna); Canadian Association of Logistics Management; 8th World Conference on Transportation

MASTER MENTOR

Karl Manrodt leads with everyday examples of time, task management

Preparing students for life beyond the collegial environment of Georgia Southern is important to Karl Manrodt.

A logistics professor, Manrodt sees his job as one of providing students with information needed to do their work. "I think of my job as a kind of manager," he explained. "I provide them with the information they need to do their projects and research assignments, and it's up to them to manage their time and to manage their manager, or faculty member, as well. That way, when they leave here they've had experience in some way of what their work environment is going to be like.

"I also see my job as preparing them to be continual learners. To try and put them in an environment where they're almost in the workforce. How are they going to react to that? How are they going to manage their time? How are they going to do these activities?" he asked. "That requires a lot of time on our side, too, so I spend a lot of time with students, going out to lunch with them."

By dining with students Manrodt is able to get to know each of his students on a more personal level. That kind of interaction allows him to know each of them well enough to know what it takes to motivate them.

"Students in my class are required to go to lunch with me at least twice a semester. If students are required to go to the faculty member's office, they're scared to death, making them wonder what they did. What I try to do is break down those barriers and say, 'Let's go to Lakeside, McAllister's, wherever.' Then I get to find out more about each of those kids, what they're interested in, what they want to do, where they want to go, how much money they want to make, and that's the fun part."

He also takes his students to conferences whenever possible. "It's great for the students because now they can see and listen to industry leaders. They come back and say, 'You know what, you've been saying that all

along.' That's good validation to us as professors as well."

Manrodt is not only a professor, but a researcher. He sees the two intertwined with service. "It is critical to have teaching, research and service work together. I think that if too much emphasis is on one area you get totally out of joint," he explained. "For example, if I spend all of time doing research, then what time do I have left for my students? So I have to do all three at the same time – keeping each area balanced. This is especially important in logistics, because we're changing all the time. New regulations and technology are coming out that dramatically changes everything we do. If I didn't do research, I wouldn't know about the changes.

"It's not just about reading an article on something – it's 'Are you working with companies that do that type of thing?' 'Are you involved with the community or industry leaders that are doing that?' So, I'm doing teaching and research – they go together – but the other part is also using the experience you gained on the other side. It's not just for the University, but also the community user and practitioners. Working with those groups highlights the University and the students you work with."

Manrodt has been at the University for seven years and has no plans to leave anytime soon. "There are always opportunities to leave, someone saying the grass is greener over there. In reality, I don't think the grass is always greener in other locations," he said. "What I tell my students is that you have to picture yourself after retirement sitting at a desk and thinking about life and what is it that's really going to matter? Is it going to be the article you wrote, the speech you gave, budget you balanced?

"It's not going to be any of those things. It's going to be the people you worked with."

—MICHELLE GROOVER



MODELING LEADERSHIP

Barbara Mallory leads future education policymakers by example

Barbara Mallory has seen education from all angles – as student, teacher, school leader and improvement consultant.

Now her knowledge and experience are helping prepare new leaders for the field.

Mallory has a wealth of experience that helps her connect with her students, including 10 years as a high school English teacher; several years as a media coordinator; and 14 years as assistant principal, associate principal and principal of J.H. Rose High School in Greenville, N.C. She also spent two years on loan to the State Department of Public Instruction as a school improvement specialist.

“Teaching graduate students is really different from teaching undergraduates,” explained Mallory. “Educational Leadership is a graduate program, and we concentrate on meeting the needs of individuals already employed as teachers. In addition to their employment, many have spouses and children to care for, too. Graduate school in education is a different kind of experience for both student and professor.”

“Much of my time is spent working one-on-one with doctoral students, reviewing their work and discussing the style and organization of their doctoral study,” she said. “Each doctoral candidate defends his or her study three times: a pre-proposal defense, a prospectus and a final study.”

“A professor teaching at the graduate level is expected to stay current with education issues and be really entrenched in his or her own research,” Mallory said. In addition to teaching in an Educational Leadership program that encompasses a master’s degree, specialist certifications and a doctorate, she chairs the studies of many doctoral students in the Educational Leadership program.

Traveling has also become a way of life for her. The doctoral program includes many cohorts of students: campus cohorts, Savannah cohorts and Augusta cohorts simultaneously

enrolled in the program. Over the summer, Mallory traveled to Savannah four evenings a week to teach two different groups there and to Augusta on Saturday for the 17 students there. As new students are admitted to the program, new cohorts are created.

“Some of the Educational Leadership classes in the master’s program are offered online,” said Mallory, “but faculty in this program believe that when teaching others how to lead, the face-to-face approach and relationship development are key. We do about 75 percent of teaching face-to-face and about 25 percent online. We have a great faculty in Educational Leadership, and they are very committed to their students.”

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia is requiring a redesign of the state’s master’s degree and education specialist programs in Educational Leadership* with revised programs to be implemented in the fall of 2008.

“Right now we are heavily involved in revamping our program,” said Mallory, “and we are building in best practices and partnering with our service-area school districts in the redesign. This change has been a great opportunity for us. Our commitment to developing a program of distinction has opened a democracy-centered process, and Educational Leadership faculty are working together to ask critical questions and seek input from all of our constituents.”

“At Georgia Southern we are developing educators for Georgia’s schools, so we have a vested interest in making sure our curriculum is the highest quality,” said Mallory. “In Educational Leadership, we have a reciprocal relationship with regional schools, and we are active partners in building school leaders who make a difference.”

“Make no mistake, we will continue to build on the strength of what already exists at Georgia Southern.”

—LORETTA BRANDON

BARBARA MALLORY

Ed.D., Educational Leadership, East Carolina University; Ed.S., Educational Administration, East Carolina University; M.A., Education, East Carolina University; M.L.S., East Carolina University; B.S., English, East Carolina University

Publications

Co-author, “Balancing the load: How to engage counselors in the school improvement process” – Principal Leadership. (April 2007) Co-author, “Planning for school improvement: Closing the gap of culture with democratic principles” – Educational Planning Publication anticipated summer 2007.

Presentations

“School Improvement: A State Assistance Team Model” at the National Youth-at-Risk Conference. Savannah, Ga., March 2006. “Context, Narrative, Imagination: Springboard for the Case for Democracy-centered Leadership” at the Southern Regional Council on Educational Administration. Jacksonville, Fla., Nov. 2006



PEGGY G. HARGIS

Ph.D., Sociology, University of Georgia
M.A., Sociology and Education,
University of Alaska-Anchorage
B.A., Sociology, University of Alaska-
Anchorage

Editorial Positions: Book review editor,
Historical Methods; associate editor,
Southern Classics Series; editorial board,
Social Forces; editorial board, Southern
Cultures; editorial reviewer, Southern
Spaces

Memberships & Activities:

Curated University Museum exhibit
“Midway: Between Slavery and Self
Sufficiency” under consideration as a
Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit

THRILL OF THE HUNT

Hargis uncovers, shares forgotten details of social history

Puzzles are more than games to Peggy Hargis. A professor of sociology, Hargis enjoys the challenge of putting together forgotten facts of history, which better prepares her to teach students.

“When I do research, that is my puzzle, and I love trying to find the answers to my research questions,” said Hargis.

Hargis, who specializes in African-American history, feels that one of the most appealing aspects of being a professor is that she has the opportunity to carve out blocks of time to dedicate to teaching, research and administrative duties. She juggles being a professor, director of the graduate program in social sciences, being a member of several editorial boards, and taking care of her family. Each semester varies for Hargis, who teaches a wide range of classes, with a concentration on introduction to sociology and senior seminar.

“One of the things that I most enjoy about being a professor is the autonomy and the fact that the job is actually quite different moment to moment,” said Hargis.

Directing the graduate program in social sciences has been one of Hargis’ favorite parts of teaching. She enjoys multiple points of contact with students in the program. Grad students are advised by Hargis, who then also meets with them for classes. These meetings build relationships that go beyond Georgia Southern.

“It’s one thing to teach, and you get a particular joy from teaching, but it is something else to direct a graduate program where you have sustained contact with the students,” Hargis said.

Hargis has felt the importance of graduate programs in her personal life. While in pursuit of her doctorate in sociology from the University of Georgia, Hargis became interested in her current field of research, African-American history. She focuses primarily on the period between

1865 and the turn of the 20th century.

“I was in a program where my professors were folks whose research areas were stratification and inequality, so those two things just blended together for me, and it has opened so many research questions – so many puzzles that I want to solve,” said Hargis.

After finding where each piece of her research question fits into a particular puzzle, Hargis incorporates the information into her curriculum for both introduction to sociology and graduate seminars. The information is presented on different levels, allowing Hargis to show students first-hand how the information they study in class relates to the real world.

“If you don’t lecture, if you don’t publish, if you don’t present at conferences, then it’s secret knowledge and that doesn’t do anybody any good,” said Hargis.

Hargis enjoys sharing her knowledge with undergrads as well. Her larger introductory courses, predominantly freshmen, who are new to the college experience, don’t always have previous knowledge about sociology.

“It’s cool that I can introduce them to a discipline that they probably don’t have any sort of substantive interest in and show them how it can relate to what they are interested in,” said Hargis.

Georgia Southern has been home to Hargis since 1994, and she enjoys working at the University because of the interactions she has on a daily basis.

“I truly enjoy my colleagues. There are lots of smart, fun, creative folks at Georgia Southern, and you can’t find that kind of quality just any old place,” said Hargis.

—MAGGIE AMES

AHMED ADU-OPPONG

Ph.D., Management, Policy Science and Community Health, University of Texas
M.S., Molecular Biology, University of Houston-Clear Lake
M.S., Health Care Administration, University of Houston-Clear Lake
MBA, University of Houston-Clear Lake
B.S., Microbiology/Biochemistry, University of Texas-Arlington.

Memberships & Activities: Medical Group Management Association; American College of Health Care Executives; American Society of Clinical Pathologists; National Public Health Association; Georgia Department of Human Resources Region 9-2 and South East Health Unit Summit Aids Care (SEHUSAC); former director Houston's Thomas Street Clinic



COMMUNITY MINDED

Ahmed Adu-Oppong has passion for enhancing lives

Ahmed Adu-Oppong has found a home at Georgia Southern and a mission – improving the health care of rural residents, and especially preventing the spread of AIDS – which has ravaged his home continent of Africa.

Oppong teaches ethics, policy and organizational behavior in health services to students pursuing graduate degrees in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health. Strengthened by 24 years of teaching and administrative experience in health care and an international perspective, Adu-Oppong helps students weigh the pros and cons of an evolving health care system.

“My classes are very interesting, because many of my students are already working in the health care field,” says Adu-Oppong. “They bring their work environment into the classroom and their health care issues to the table for discussion. We grapple regularly with a question that almost every American will face in the coming decades: Is health care a right or a privilege?”

“In recent years, America has increased its spending on health care, yet its health indicators are falling,” he explains. “Nearly half of health care spending goes to end-of-life care. With a presidential election in the coming year, issues such as healthcare costs and universal health coverage will be at the forefront of the nation's concerns.” He also emphasizes the vital importance of screening, prevention and primary care to keep costs down in any healthcare system.

Adu-Oppong has an impressive resume: degrees in microbiology, biochemistry, molecular biology, business administration, and a doctorate in management, policy science and community health. He has eight years of experience in biomedical, health care and HIV/AIDS research at Baylor College of Medicine; five years as a medical laboratory administrator with The Methodist Hospital System in Houston; and four years as director of Houston's Thomas Street Clinic, the first free-standing, publicly

funded, community-based HIV/AIDS clinic in the nation. Before coming to Georgia Southern, he founded Sankofa Health Inc., a non-profit to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS in developing countries.

With Adu-Oppong's interest in HIV/AIDS treatment and research, it was natural for him to connect with Amethyst Project Inc. (API), a community-based organization focused on assisting those with HIV/AIDS. API provides care in Bulloch, Evans and Candler counties and offers educational activities in other nearby counties. He has served as the board chair of API since January 2007, holding fiscal responsibility for the organization and interacting with patients to make sure they are well-served.

Working with the Bulloch County Health Department, Adu-Oppong continues his HIV/AIDS research by looking at outcomes of individual patients. His current study gathers information on those taking HIV/AIDS medications and considers two indicators that measure how well patients' immune systems are working. He has collected data on 50 patients so far and is adding surrounding communities to increase his research population.

As researcher, Adu-Oppong recognizes the importance of building partnerships for the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health and for the University. In his first year at Georgia Southern, he submitted three proposals to the National Institutes for Health and one to the Centers for Disease Control. He is building a framework in which students can do research and grow in knowledge within a network of collaborations with colleagues on campus and in public health organizations across Georgia.

If Ahmed Adu-Oppong has “fallen in love with Statesboro,” it's a good bet those feelings are reciprocal. Whether he's in the classroom or in the community, he is sharing his knowledge to benefit all.

—LORETTA BRANDON



PHOTOS BY FRANK FORTUNE AND SUZANNE OLIVER

Lighting the Way

Georgia Southern has been making life better for Georgians for 100 years, and starting last December, from St. Marys to Dalton and all points in between, alumni across the state have observed their university's 100th birthday. In addition to designated lectures, concerts and other campus events, a March gathering on Sweetheart Circle and another in Atlanta's Centennial Park last May gave hundreds of alumni and friends the opportunity to recall the past and resolve that the best is yet to come.

Sweetheart Circle. 03.30.07



President Bruce Grube and John and Mary Bon Wallace chatted on Sweetheart Circle during the March campus centennial celebration.



Wildlife Education Center Director Steve Hein and his student, "Freedom," informed and entertained the crowd.



Hundreds of Georgia Southern students, alumni and friends enjoyed free food and drinks on Sweetheart Circle.



Everyone was pulling for Georgia Southern.



University mascot Gus was a hit, as always, with children of all ages.



In addition to exhibits, a snow machine, music and food, a variety of games kept kids jumping.

Atlanta Centennial Park. 05.19.07



State Representative Bill Hembree, Vice President for Advancement Billy Griffis and Foundation Trustees Chairman Rob Meadows shared a few laughs in Atlanta.



The Atlanta event found "Majesty" the Eurasian eagle owl on hand from the Wildlife Education Center.



Eagle football greets Monty Sharpe and Tracy Ham were among the crowd at Atlanta's Centennial Park.

The Center for Excellence in Teaching

is on a mission to maximize effective teaching at Georgia Southern University.

EXCELLENCE MARKS THEIR SPOT

BY PHILLIP BROWN

When it comes to enhancing the classroom experience for Georgia Southern students, the Center for Excellence in Teaching (CET) has been called the University's best tool.

"The CET is a valuable resource to promote student learning," said Laura Frost, associate professor of chemistry. "As Georgia Southern moves toward increasing the level of faculty research, the Center helps us keep a focus on teaching."

Established in the 1980s, the Center was originally created to assist the faculty with computer technology. As the University community became more proficient with technological advancements, the Center started to rethink its mission and focused on the effectiveness of the technology in teaching and learning.

Most recently, since the arrival of director Alan Altany, the Center has developed new services, publications and programming to support faculty collaboration as well as the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL).

"A brief way to describe SoTL is to say it is an inquiry and research-led, evidence-based approach to teaching and learning," Altany explained. "It is the epitome of professional

faculty development that is integral to the University's mission. The Center's focus on SoTL will help faculty to make pedagogical decisions about how best to teach so that students learn best."

Altany said CET appreciates all the knowledge, experience and wisdom about teaching the faculty already has. At the same time, it is seeking opportunities for faculty members to learn from each other about how best to teach.

Raleigh Way, instructional services coordinator at the Center, agreed. He said Georgia Southern has great faculty members who are extremely knowledgeable in their disciplines, but unfortunately learning teaching pedagogy isn't always part of their training.

"There are certain teaching strategies that improve students' learning and mastery of subjects, and our purpose is to assist faculty toward those goals," Way explained.

The Center offers a number of avenues to aid the University's teaching staff, including individual consultations, online resources, faculty learning communities, reading roundtables, faculty pedagogical retreats, new faculty seminars, mentor programs, facilitator of grants and awards and a lending library.

"We're available to work with faculty in groups or in one-on-one consultations related to instructional design or pedagogical issues," said Way.

Frost, who worked with the Center to improve the instructional design of her Chemistry 1140 class Introduction to General, Organic, and Biochemistry, said the CET is a great resource to accomplish this process.

Trent Maurer, assistant professor of child and family development, praised Center personnel for their assistance in helping him redesign the curriculum for a family development class.

"Ludy Goodson helped me from the pedagogical aspect to restructure and reframe the course to better meet my goals for students," said Maurer adding that Way and Steve Bonham, director of the Technology Development Lab, provided technological assistance. Way helped with the course Web page design and offered advice on creating discussion boards and online quizzes. Bonham assisted in the selection and transfer of audio and video clips for class presentations.

Maurer said the course changes resulted in an improvement in students' grades and increased class participation.

“Working with the CET was a 100 percent positive experience,” said Maurer. “Everyone there has helped me to be a better teacher and better researcher in the scholarship of teaching and learning.”

CET’s consultative services are just one example of how it works with the professoriate.

This past fall, the Center organized a Faculty Learning Communities (FLC) Program devoted to specific topics of shared concern such as assessing student learning, information literacy, teaching first-year students and service learning and civic engagement.

“FLCs are a great way to get faculty to look at what they are doing,” Way said. “This year we had 80 faculty members form 12 different FLCs to explore topics they selected.”

Each FLC consisted of between six and 12 members. Communities met throughout the academic year to research and discuss their topics. In April, they shared their results with the entire campus through a series of presentations.

Susan Trimble, an associate professor in the College of Education’s Department of Teaching and Learning, chaired a learning community devoted to assessing student learning. Its members included Dharma Adhikari, communication arts; June Alberto, nursing; Nancy Malcom, sociology and anthropology; Barbara Price, finance and quantitative analysis; Kent Rittschof, curriculum, foundations and reading; and Hani Samawi, mathematical sciences. Way served as the Center’s liaison to this FLC.

“Our learning community was a great group of faculty,” Trimble said. “We had a lot of discussions about the actual definition of assessment as well as how to measure students’ learning.”

Trimble stated that while the project didn’t directly impact her classroom instruction, she thought the entire group benefited from listening to other faculty members’ perspectives.

The Center already is recruiting faculty members for the 2007-08 academic year learning communities. SoTL topics to be explored include: active, effective lecturing; teaching critical and creative thinking; academic integrity; teaching large classes; online teaching; early career faculty cohort; and teaching science, technology, engineering and math.

“Teaching is a very personal process, and our professors really want their students to learn and learn well,” said Altany. “Here at the



FRANK FORTUNE

Steve Bonham conducts a session with members of the Georgia Southern University faculty.

We’re available to work with faculty in groups or in one-on-one consultations related to instructional design or pedagogical issues.
— Raleigh Way

Center, we serve as a catalyst to help them explore how to teach better so that significant learning occurs regularly.”

In fact, the Center is poised to become a national leader for SoTL research and how its applications can transform student learning.

Earlier this year, the Center launched the *International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*, a double-blind, peer-reviewed academic journal. This open-source electronic publication, which has a review board of faculty from 30 countries, receives manuscripts from researchers around the world. Its inaugural issue is on the Web at www.georgiasouthern.edu/ijostl/current.htm.

In November, CET will host “SoTL Commons: A Conference for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.” More than 100 scholars have registered to present their research at this inaugural conference, which is being held in the Nessmith-Lane Building. The Center anticipates 400 participants.

Math T. Huber will serve as the conference’s

keynote speaker. An author and senior scholar on SoTL at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Huber directs the foundation’s Integrative Learning Project.

“Teaching and learning is a vital topic that draws worldwide attention,” said Way, who is helping to organize the conference. He added that many of the scholars who will present their research live and work as far away as England, Switzerland, Australia, Sweden South Africa, Canada, Czech Republic and New Zealand.

While the conference is reaching out globally, Altany emphasized that Georgia Southern faculty submitted the most conference proposals from any one institution.

“It is encouraging to see the level of interest from Georgia Southern,” said Altany. “Faculty from around the world and across the country and state will converge on Georgia Southern. It is our goal that they leave behind new roots that have the potential to deepen the University’s commitment to SoTL.”

2006 INTRODUCING ALUMNI

Every year, outstanding
Georgia Southern alumni are
recognized by the University
and the Alumni Association.

Alumna of the Year

HALA MODELMOG

president and CEO, Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation, Dallas, Texas



An honorary doctoral degree recipient, Hala Modellmog ('79) is responsible for all aspects of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation's manage-

ment. She is founder and former CEO of Catalytic Ventures. A former president of Church's Chicken, she led Church's to record sales and profit performance. Modellmog also has held executive management positions with the Arby's Franchise Association and BellSouth. She was chair of the University Campaign for National Distinction and has served on the Leadership Atlanta Board, Atlanta Police Foundation Board, Georgia Southern Foundation Board, B.B. King Museum Foundation Board and the *Women Looking Ahead* magazine board. Modellmog has received the Women's Foodservice Forum Emerging Leaders Award, International Franchise Association Bonny LeVine Award, Restaurant Hospitality Rising Star Award, Roundtable for Women in Foodservice Pacesetter Award and the PYMCA of Greater Atlanta Women of Achievement Award.

Alumnus of the Year in Private Enterprise

MARSHAL MIZE

owner, Candler LLC, Chattanooga, Tenn.



Marshal Mize ('68) serves as chief manager and owner of Candler LLC, and is former president and owner of Marshal Mize Ford. Mize is

a former captain in the US Air Force, and has served on the Board of Directors for the American Cancer Society, the Chamber of Commerce, WCTI Public Television and Boy Scouts of America. He has served as vice chair for the Chattanooga Classic Golf Tournament and vice chair of the Enterprise Center. He is a member of Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church, Rotary Club of Chattanooga and the University Foundation Board of Trustees. Mize was named 21st Air Force Junior Officer of the Year in 1971 and earned the Ford Motor Company Sales Service and Achievement Award.

The President's Medal

EUGENE BISHOP

president, Health Services, Dawsonville, Ga.



Honorary doctoral degree recipient Eugene Bishop ('00) is owner of Health Service Centers, Botswana Photographic and Safari Company and

Victoria Falls Zimbabwe Photographic and Hunting Safari Company. He is the single largest contributor to the Georgia Southern Athletics Department, funded the Gene Bishop Field House at Paulson Stadium, and is a major contributor to the planned Bishop Family Welcome and Alumni Center. He has funded the faculty and staff lounge in the College

of Business Administration and contributed significantly to the Student Disability Resource Center. Bishop served on the Steering Committee for the Campaign for National Distinction. He is a member and past chairman of Southern Boosters and is a Georgia Southern Foundation Board of Trustees member. He was the 1997 Georgia Southern University Friend of the University Award recipient.

Eagle Lifetime Achievement Award

CLAUDE A. HOWARD JR.

chairman of the board/co-owner Claude Howard Lumber Co., Statesboro



Claude H. Howard Jr. ('63) heads Claude Howard Lumber Company and Claude Howard Lumber and Hardware Inc. He has served on the boards

of directors of the Southeastern Lumber Manufacturing Association, Forest Heights Country Club, First Bulloch Bank and Trust Company, the Georgia Southern Foundation, COBA Business Advisory Council, Joseph's Home for Boys, the Hospital Authority of Bulloch County, Savannah Sales Company, Bulloch Academy, GACO, Statesboro-Bulloch County Development Authority, and United Way of Bulloch County. He is a charter member of the University Foundation's 1906 Society. He is an active member of Pittman Park United Methodist Church. He received the Deen Day Smith Service to Mankind Award in 2001, was the Statesboro-Bulloch County Chamber of Commerce Business Leader of the Year in 1995 and the Statesboro-Bulloch County Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year in 1998. He established the Claude A. Howard Scholarship through the University Foundation and was instrumental in the construction of the Eagle golf program's new clubhouse facility. Howard was one of 11 2007 recipients of the Southern Conference's annual Distinguished Service Award.

OF THE YEAR

College of Information Technology

CINDY B. TIERNEY

CIO and senior VP of Beazer Homes, Atlanta



Cindy Tierney ('84) is formerly CIO, NSI, and senior VP of Global Strategic Advisory Services, Comdisco. She has served as senior executive

director of business systems and planning for Office Depot and was instrumental in the company's growth from 200 to 500 stores, serving as chairperson of the Mergers and Acquisitions Team and revamping vital credit card strategy. She was the subject of a *TechLINKS* magazine CIO Profile, was a Woman of the Year in Technology Enterprise Business Nominee 2006, and a Georgia CIO of the Year Award Enterprise Finalist 2006. Tierney is an Atlanta CIO Executive Summit Best in Practice Speaker 2006, Georgia Southern College of IT board member, New Home Technologies Board member and a GCLA Advisory Board member.

College of Education

DAWN H. CARTEE

president, Ogeechee Technical College, Statesboro



Dawn Cartee ('90) is the chief administrative officer for Ogeechee Technical Institute. She formerly served as vice president

of academic affairs at Southeastern Technical College. She has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Statesboro-Bulloch County Chamber of Commerce, the Bulloch County Make-a-Wish Foundation and the Editorial Board for *Statesboro Magazine*. She is active in the Downtown Rotary Club of Statesboro, Statesboro Boys & Girls Club,

Habitat for Humanity, Beta Sigma Phi and Phi Mu Alumni Association. She was a *Georgia Trend* 2005 "40 under 40" subject.

College of Health and Human Sciences

DIANE CULVER BAILEY

founder, The Bailey Boys Inc., St. Simons Island, Ga.



Diane C. Bailey ('70) was a full-time homemaker and volunteer until the mid-1980s when she founded The Bailey Boys Inc. clothing line

for children. She is the sole designer of all the clothing in the line. Bailey opened the Bailey Boys factory in Baxley, Ga., one of the few operating clothes manufacturing plants in the U.S. The clothing is distributed in more than 600 stores in 20 states. She serves as president of the Parent Teacher Association at Glynn Academy in Brunswick, president of the Glynn Academy Booster Club, a director of the Oglethorpe Bank in Brunswick, and is an active member of the St. Simons United Methodist Church. Bailey received the U.S. Cotton Champion Award from the National Cotton Council in 2002 for commitment to use American-made cotton fiber.

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

JULIE TURNER DAVIS

Senior VP, Bank of America, Atlanta



Julie Turner Davis is senior vice president of the Bank of America. She has conducted media and public relations work for the Olympic and

Sport Marketing Group, Bank of America Y2K readiness effort, mid-Atlanta Region Public Relations Team and Bank of America

Community Development activities. She is a member of the Georgia Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America, the Georgia Southern Public Relations Advisory Board, Georgia Southern Atlanta Focus Group, Emory University Public Affairs Advisory Board and the Marketing Advisory Board for Project Open Hand in Atlanta.

College of Science and Technology

STEPHEN F. GAY

owner, The Prescription Shop and Georgia Compounding Services, Statesboro



Stephen Gay founded the Pharmacy Intern Program at Georgia Southern and has served as president of the Optimist Club and president of First

Region Georgia Pharmacist Association. He is an active member of First Baptist Church of Statesboro. Gay received the Rho Chi award for outstanding first year as a pharmacy student and graduated magna cum laude from the University of Georgia. He is a member of the Georgia Pharmaceutical Association, the Georgia Compounding Association, the American Pharmaceutical Association, the International Academy of Compounding Pharmacists and the University Foundation's 1906 Society.

College of Business Administration

GARY M. DAVIS

president, GMD Services, Statesboro



Gary M. Davis ('72) is a certified public accountant and owner of six Subway Restaurant franchises in Bulloch County. He serves on the Savannah Area

Subway Advertising Board as chairman, the Subway Franchisee Advertising Trust Fund Board of Directors, the Subway Franchisee Advertising Trust Fund as treasurer, is chairman of the Forest Heights Country Club Board of Directors and is a past president of Forest Heights Country Club. Davis has served as Statesboro Convention and Visitors Bureau treasurer. His business was selected as the 2005 Small Business of the Year by the Statesboro-Bulloch County Chamber of Commerce and has received Subway Sales and Performance Awards. He is active in the First Baptist Church of Statesboro.

Department of Biology

MARY M. BENNETT

Assistant professor and program coordinator, Georgia Southern, Statesboro



Mary Bennett ('79) is an assistant professor of education at Georgia Southern. She has served as a Georgia Leadership Institute for School

Improvement member, manuscript reviewer for Action in Teacher Education, Secondary Education Program coordinator, member of the Liberty County Board of Education, and Partner School Field Associate for Southeast Bulloch High School. Bennett has presented at the Association of Teacher Educators National Conference, the National Network for Educational Renewal Annual Conference, Professional Development Schools National Conference, National Youth-at-Risk Conference and the Georgia P-016 Council Network Conference. She has authored or co-authored more than \$5 million in awards and grants. She received the Award for Distinguished Program in Teacher Education in state of Georgia, 2000.

1940s

Joyce Denmark McElveen ('49) lives in Brooklet, Ga.

1950s

Dellama Jarrard Crosby ('54) lives in Alma, Ga.

Catharine Holt Norton ('56) and her husband, **Phillip** ('55), reside in Fort Wayne, Ind. "I am remaining active as a volunteer at my church," she writes. "Music continues to be a major part of my life. I am so proud of what Georgia Teachers College has grown into – Georgia Southern University!" The couple would enjoy hearing from friends at cathynorton@earthlink.net.

Jean Wall Davis ('55) writes that she enjoys traveling and lives in Fayetteville, Ga.

1960s

Joyce Rahn Bonovitch ('60) is retired, but continues to work as a substitute teacher. She lives in Birmingham, Ala., and can be reached at JBonovitch@aol.com.

Patrick G. Blanchard ('66) was named among Georgia's Top 25 CEOs of publicly traded companies that produced the greatest shareholder return over the past five years. The recognition appears in the March 17, 2007, edition of the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*.

Robert Ream ('68) and his wife, Patricia, are retired and living in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Nancy Jenkins Welch ('68) is a retired journalist living in Highlands, N.C. She would love to hear from friends at nwelch@excite.com.

1970s

Kenneth Warren Austin ('74) writes, "I have been married to Jennifer for over 30 years. We are proud parents of two sons, Cliff, 28 and Walt, 25." Cliff graduated from Auburn University in 2002 and will complete two additional degrees from The University of Alabama-Birmingham this summer. He is married and living in Birmingham, Ala. Walt graduated from Auburn University in 2004.

» ALUMNI PROFILE

On the case

Private investigator keeps the facts straight

By Maggie Ames

In a court of law, the facts speak. Private investigator William Lee's job is to make sure the facts are available to be heard.

As co-owner of Defense Litigation Group Inc., Lee ('91), a private investigator and insurance adjuster, is involved with product liability litigation.

His company provides investigative services to a wide array of manufacturers whose products might be targeted in lawsuits. Attorneys suing the manufacturers often base their cases on alleged product design defects.

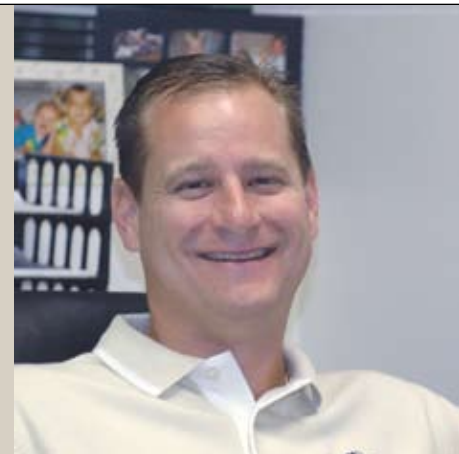
"We identify, locate and interview everyone on scene," said Lee.

Lee's company does more than just interview witnesses. They are hired by attorneys to do full assessments of the cases, such as scene and product inspections, background investigations and early warning defense.

Dealing with manufacturing companies and attorneys can produce a stressful work environment. Most of the cases brought to Lee's company are worth several million dollars.

"You're dealing with high-caliber people," said Lee.

Some of the clients that Lee's company has



dealt with include Ford Motor Co., Honda North America, Porsche Cars of North America, Toyota and Goodyear Dunlop Tire.

Defense Litigation Group Inc. is based in Orlando, Fla., but their cases take them to states from North Carolina to Louisiana.

A criminal justice major, Lee has worked with litigation for most of his career. He started as a deputy clerk in Federal Court in Savannah but later moved to Atlanta to become a private investigator in tobacco litigation. After a few years, Lee moved to Orlando. In 2002, Lee left that position to open Defense Litigation Group Inc.

"Everything is good. It's nice to be your own boss, but what most people don't understand is you end up working twice as hard," said Lee.

Lee and his business partner maintain a full caseload along with tending to the duties of running a business.

Lee and his wife, Monique, who live in Oviedo, Fla., have two daughters. He tries to make it back to visit Georgia Southern annually for homecoming.

He will be returning this fall from a 12-month tour in Iraq. He is a first lieutenant and serves as the Battalion Intelligence Officer for the 1-131 AVN Regiment at LSA Anaconda. Upon his return, he will be attending flight school at Fort Rucker, Alabama. "I work in Purchasing and Production Control for American Mills Inc. in Griffin, Ga.," wrote Kenneth, "and I also have been teaching accounting at Griffin Technical College for 10 years. Jennifer has been a para-pro with K-2 special ed students for 20 years. I would welcome word from any former classmates from the Class of 1974. Go Eagles!"

Anne Josey Baggett ('73) resides in Cartersville, Ga.

Mitchell Bohannon, ('75) has been named president /chief executive officer/chairman of the board for Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co. and will assume responsibility for overseeing all aspects of company business. Formerly chief operating officer, Bohannon has been an employee with Thomas & Hutton since November 1975. The company is an established, multi-disciplined consulting civil engineering firm located in Savannah and Brunswick, Ga., Charleston and Myrtle Beach, S.C., and Wilmington, N.C.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

HOMECOMING

1950s-60s Centennial Homecoming Reunion

We will be honoring 50-year graduates from the Class of 1957

Friday, Oct. 26

Golf Tournament at Smithfield Golf Club

Dinner at J.I. Clements Stadium

Saturday, Oct. 27

Dinner and Dance

Forest Heights Country Club

Make Room Reservations Today!

Call LaQuinta Inn at 912.871.2525

Please identify yourself as an alumnus of the Classes of 1950s-1960s.
\$101 per night (plus tax) • Room Release Date is Oct. 12 • Credit Card
Required for Room Guarantee

Additional reunion registration information will be forthcoming
this summer, so watch your mail for further details. Questions may
be directed to the Office of Alumni Relations at (912)681-5691.



Jeff Dell ('85) is a construction manager with H&A Investment Properties/D&D Construction Services. He and his wife, Debbie, have four children and make their home in Forsyth, Ga.

Gilbert Werntz ('85) recently accepted a position as sales representative at Hancor in Savannah. In April, he was named to the board of directors for the Islands YMCA branch in Savannah.

Georgianne Osterman Cherry ('87) is a bio-terrorism defense planner with the Florida Department of Health. She resides in Celebration, Fla.

R. Campbell Hay ('87) was sworn in as Wilmington, Del., City Council's 8th Councilmanic District representative.

Steve Myers ('87) is an area manager with Accredited Home Lenders. He lives in Wadsworth, Ohio, and can be reached at smyers@accredhome.com.

William Buske ('88) recently published his murder mystery novel *Beach Songs*.

1990s

Tony Delp ('91) is the associate athletics director for advancement at Campbell University. He recently completed raising more than \$36 million for athletics capital projects. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Fuquay-Varina, N.C., with their two children.

Rebecca Doll-Suppes ('91) and her husband, Les Suppes, announce the January birth of their son, Brockton.

Robert Garrett ('91) is an officer with Securities Security Services. He lives in Butler, Ga.

Paul Greenspan ('91) and his wife, Mour, celebrated the April birth of their daughter, Rose. She joins siblings Emma and Jacob.

Jennifer Gowen Greer ('92) and her husband, Mark, announce the April birth of their daughter, Campbell Grace. The family resides in Charlotte, N.C.

Kandace Lucas ('93) is a first-grade teacher with the Bleckley County Board of Education. She and her husband, Andy, live in Montrose, Ga., with their daughter Lacy. They would enjoy hearing from friends at aklucas@cstel.net.

William Charles ('76) has worked with Bristol Myers Squibb for 27 years. He was recently promoted to the oncology division as senior territory business manager in the Tampa, Fla., area. He and his wife, Teresa, make their home in Plant City, Fla., and would enjoy hearing from friends at william.charles@bms.com.

James Osterman ('78) writes, "I will have my first book published this summer, *Excellence in Brand Advertising*. The book profiles advertising agencies around the country that have earned a reputation for cultivating strong brand relationships."

Robert Stitzel Jr. ('79) lives in Shelby, N.C.

1980s

Bill Bricker ('80) is a Web designer with Capital One in Richmond, Va.

Susan McInarnay ('81) is a teacher in the Clay County, Fla., School System. She recently taught an elementary methods of mathematics course at Saint Leo University. "I'm delighted that Coach Hatcher is bringing

back the yellow school buses for the football team!" she writes. She lives in Jacksonville and can be reached at smcinarnay@mail.clay.k12.fl.us.

Paul Scott ('81) is a computer specialist at the Medical College of Georgia. He and his wife, Elizabeth, make their home in Martinez, Ga. They would enjoy hearing from friends at JumpinPaul@aol.com.

Charles L. George ('82), has been promoted to vice president and quality assurance/quality control manager for Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co. George has been an employee with Thomas & Hutton since June 1997.

Jim Campbell ('83) writes that he has a rare, terminal disease and invites friends to contact him at cloudwalker98@gmail.com or 1 Clear Creek, Irvine, CA 92620.

Jody Slater ('84) owns Zaxby's restaurant in Pooler, Ga.

Neal Bevans ('85) recently published his eighth textbook, *Civil Law and Litigation for Paralegals*. He is an attorney and author living in Asheville, N.C.





FRANK FORTUNE

» ALUMNI PROFILE

Sculptor's 'Wild Ride' brings him back

More than 20 years after graduating from Georgia Southern, sculptor Eric Strauss returned for a visit, and he didn't come alone.

He brought with him his traveling exhibition of 18 sculptures made from stainless steel, bronze and found objects.

Titled "Wild Ride: Artistic Lessons of Nature," this was the largest body of his work ever assembled for exhibition. Nine of the sculptures were shown in the spacious lobby of the Performing Arts Center, and the rest were on display in the Botanical Garden.

"One of the neat things about coming back to Georgia Southern was getting to meet the new crew in the art department," said Strauss. "When I was there the art department was small – we only had four full-time sculpture students. Now there's a new studio and hundreds of art students."

"It's interesting that Georgia Southern still has the intimate appeal of a small school," said Strauss. "When we poured bronze, we'd go Dingus McGee's while we waited – and Dingus McGee's is still there."

"This show, 'Wild Ride,' has been really good for me," he explained, "because it's shown my work around the state in everything from a contemporary Western museum to an older museum in Albany to the Georgia Southern Botanical Garden. Right now the exhibition is in Calhoun, a small city in Northeast Georgia, and we'll be moving to a gallery in a great tourist town, Chattanooga, Tenn., this summer. It's the same work, but each location gives it a new look."

After 22 years as a sculptor, Strauss is taking his work to the next level. He's hired a publicist and has a new Web site, www.ericstraussculptor.com.

"People all over the country have purchased my work," said Strauss. "Sculptures purchased while I was in Santa Fe have made their way back to the northeastern U.S., while sculptures purchased in the Atlanta area have stayed in the southeast. I'm aiming for a growing national audience, because I want to continue doing this work for the next 20 or 30 years."

Jim Oxford ('93) is a lawyer and partner at Boswell & Oxford. They specialize in personal injury, worker's compensation, criminal defense, domestic relations and real estate. He and his wife, Carol, live in Greensboro, Ga. They can be reached at jamesroxford@yahoo.com.

Heather McAdam Pomilio ('94) and her husband, Steven, celebrated the April birth of their son, Dylan. Heather is a special education teacher with the Dorchester, S.C., School District. The family lives in Ladson and would enjoy hearing from friends at hmsb13@aol.com.

Kacey Wells ('94) is a sales representative with Pro Star Sports Strength and Conditioning. He and his wife, Tami, and daughter, Addison, live in Sugarland, Texas, and can be reached at kaceynwells@yahoo.com.

Elizabeth Neptune ('95) is a lieutenant commander and surgical nurse in the Surgical Company in Al Taqaddum, Iraq. She has served in Iraq since February 2007. She can be reached at Elizabeth.neptune@tq-mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil.

Alana Eunice Avret ('96) is a sales manager with Synovus Mortgage Corp. at Sea Island Bank in Statesboro. She manages the sales team to ensure professional performance and exceptional service for the customers. She also serves as associate vice president of the Statesboro Homebuilders Association. She and her husband, Chad, have one son, Evan.

Heather Turner Bizzell ('96) and her husband, **Brandon** ('96), proudly announce the December birth of their son, Bryson, who joins big brother Avery. Heather manages e-mail marketing programs for UPS corporate headquarters in Atlanta. Brandon is a lieutenant with the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office. The family lives in Norcross, Ga.

Stephanie Myshak Campbell ('96) and her husband, Brian, welcomed their daughter, Kamryn Kaye, in August 2006. Stephanie works for the City of Alpharetta, Ga., as a program coordinator for the Recreation and Parks Department. Stephanie would enjoy hearing from friends at smcampbe@campbell-crazies.com.

Joseph Lawrence ('96) is an attorney living in the Baltimore, Md., area.

Delia Braswell Mobley ('96) owns and operates the Kindermusik program in Statesboro and teaches piano lessons.



**GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
FOOTBALL
2007 SCHEDULE**

9/8/2007	WEST GEORGIA
9/15/2007	@COASTAL CAROLINA
9/22/2007	CHATTANOOGA
9/29/2007	WESTERN CAROLINA
10/6/2007	SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
10/13/2007	@ELON
10/20/2007	@APPALACHIAN STATE
10/27/2007	THE CITADEL (H)
11/3/2007	@WOFFORD
11/10/2007	FURMAN
11/17/2007	@COLORADO STATE

**FOR TICKET INFORMATION CALL:
1-800-GSU-WINS**

ATTENTION BAGS MEMBERS

Homecoming Reunion Dance

► **FRIDAY evening, Oct. 26**

Welcome Reception & Step Show

► **SATURDAY, Oct. 27**

Reunion & Dance

For Homecoming hotel accommodations call: Comfort Inn, 912.681.2400 and ask for Georgia Southern BAGS Room Block

*Times & places to be announced
Watch your mail
for specific details!*



Damon Woodson ('96) and his wife, Jennifer, announce the April birth of their son, Nicholas.

Christine "Crissy" Bauman ('97) works for MPI in Haure, Mont. She would enjoy hearing from friends at cbauman@hotmail.com.

Tonya Owens Collins ('97) and her husband, **Jeff** ('00), announce the September arrival of twins Katelyn Elizabeth and Austin Lee.

Jim Porter ('97) is a senior preconstruction engineer with New South Construction. He and his wife, Karen, have two children, Cody and Sarah, and make their home in Roswell, Ga. The family can be reached at porterj@bellsouth.net.

Chris Schubert ('97) and his wife, Stephanie, live in Roswell, Ga.

Kimberly Whitlock ('97) is a registered nurse in the Cardiac ICU at Children's Healthcare at Egleston Hospital in Atlanta. She writes, "I would love to hear from old friends at nurse_kjw@hotmail.com." She lives in Decatur, Ga.

George Jenkins ('98) is a financial advisor with Golden Isles Investment Center/Raymond James Financial.

Melissa Clark Johnson ('98) and her husband, **Richard** ('96), are celebrating the April birth of their son, Ethan. He joins big brother Andrew. The family lives in Austell, Ga., and would enjoy hearing from friends at rich-nallie@bellsouth.net.

Shannon Piet ('98) is a project designer with EXPO Design Center. In October, she passed

the National Council for Interior Design Qualification Examination. She lives in Fayetteville, Ga.

Judson Rahn ('98) and his wife, Kathryn, are living in Van Buren, Ark.

Curt Ricker ('98) and his wife, Brandy, announce the birth of their son, CJ, who was born in February. The family lives in Kennesaw, Ga.

Ryan Hensley ('99) is a design engineer with the Team Red Bull NASCAR Nextel Cup Team.

2000s

Jodie Ragan Bacon ('00) and her husband, **Kenny** ('01), announce the August 2006 birth of their son, Kennon.

Michelle Glaze ('00) accepted a position with The Walt Disney Company in Orlando, Fla., as a financial analyst.

Mandy Imming Rane ('00) and her husband, James, celebrated the October birth of their son, James Rane III. Mandy writes, "I'm a nurse practitioner who is enjoying time off with my son." The family lives in Dothan, Ala., and would enjoy hearing from friends at mbl135@hotmail.com.

Clinton Scott Burns ('01) and Melissa Pate were married in May. They currently reside in Savannah.

Allyson Fanning Carson ('01) and her husband, Mark, celebrated the March birth of their daughter, Braylan.

Jennifer Brazell Dasher ('01) is a second-grade teacher at Reidsville Elementary School. She was recently selected at Reidsville Elementary's Teacher of the Year for 2007. She lives in Collins, Ga., and can be reached at jedasher@tatttnall.k12.ga.us.

Christina Robnett ('02) and W. Jason Atkins were married in September at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta. Christy is an interior designer with Stegenga and Partners. She recently passed the National Council for Interior Design Qualification exam and is now a registered interior designer with the State of Georgia. The couple resides in Suwanee, Ga.

Erin Malowney Clary ('02) and her husband, **Jason** ('01), celebrated the March birth of their son, Jackson. The family lives in Sugar Hill, Ga.

Carron Hampton ('02) is a Peace Corps volunteer stationed in Fiji.

Joe Lanier ('02) is a mortgage lending officer with Synovus Mortgage Corp. at Sea Island Bank in Statesboro. He and his wife, Laura, reside in Statesboro.

Carla Ward Perkins ('02) is a nutritionist with the Georgia WIC program in Macon, serving Bibb, Crawford and Twiggs counties. She and her husband, Terrill, were married in May.

Traci Rathbun Robinson ('02) and her husband, Robert, live in Watertown, N.Y. Traci is a stay-at-home mom with their son, Gabriel. She would enjoy hearing from friends at rangerwife@hotmail.com.

» ALUMNI PROFILE

Shelar helps the building industry to flourish

By Maggie Ames

Laying a strong foundation means more than concrete blocks or pilings for Scott Shelar ('93).

As the executive director of the Construction Education Foundation of Georgia (CEFGA), Shelar connects the construction industry with the education system in Georgia.

"I think what I am doing is helping students find career direction at a young age – helping them think about what they want to do after high school," he said. Shelar's work helped to place some of the 2,236 Georgia students who joined the construction industry last year.

Shelar, who has been with CEFGA for 10 years, focuses primarily on fundraising from construction companies across Georgia.

"Each year we generate about \$500,000 in revenue as an organization, so my primary responsibility is to go out and secure donations," said Shelar.

Annually, CEFGA holds the Construction Career Expo, which provides students with information about career opportunities and hands-on experience in the field. This year's event was held in April and brought a record attendance of 3,200 students and more than 500 volunteers.

"The students really enjoy it, and all of the industry volunteers who organize the event



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enjoy it as well," Shelar said.

Shelar was not always aware that he would work in the construction industry. The political science major came to Georgia Southern with intentions of becoming a lawyer. Once into his major, he realized that he enjoyed the history and government aspects of political science more.

"My last few years at Southern went by very quickly because I was doing things that I really enjoyed," said Shelar.

Shelar still enjoys visiting Statesboro on a regular basis. He is a member of the advisory

board for the construction management program at Georgia Southern, which brings him to town for meetings several times a year. He and his wife, Kara Martin Shelar ('92), also visit her family, which resides in Statesboro.

"Something I miss about being in Statesboro is going to Paulson Stadium and seeing the Eagles play football," said Shelar. "In the meantime, I try to catch games when I can."

The couple, who lives in Decatur, Ga., is expecting their first child, a boy, in August. "We're really excited. This will be a good new chapter," said Shelar.

Suzanne Brightbill ('03) went on an expedition to Antarctica to participate in the kayaking championships.

Jamie DeLoach ('03) has joined the management training program at Citizens Bank of Effingham County.

Amanda Smith Flener ('03) and her husband, John, celebrated the November birth of their son, Gabriel. Amanda is owner and

administrator of Harris House Inc., an assisted living facility. She writes, "We recently expanded our businesses from two assisted living facilities to a furniture and baby specialty store. Life is busy, but good." The family lives in Fitzgerald, Ga.

Becky Samples Garrett ('03) and her husband, Gary, welcomed the birth of a daughter, Kathleen, in July 2006.

LaQuanda Lewis ('03) received a Master of Public Health in Health Administration and Policy degree from Morehouse School of Medicine in May.

Paul Miley ('03) and his wife, **Allison** (Berry '03), announce the May birth of their daughter, Calah Gail. The family lives in Forsyth, Ga.



Blue Plate SPECIAL

For complete information on how to purchase your own Georgia Southern prestige tag, visit your county tax office or <http://motor.etax.dor.ga.gov/motor>. Under "Registration," click on "Special Tags" and follow the instructions to purchase.

Jovan Myrick ('03) is the founder and CEO of New Concepts Marketing Group, New Concepts Music Group and New Concepts Management Group. He lives in Tallahassee, Fla., and can be reached at jovanmyrick@gmail.com.

Kaneshia Poole ('03) and **Otto Walker** ('03) announce the August 2006 birth of their daughter, Hannah.

Frannie Aspinwall Rector ('03) and her husband, **Josh** ('00), proudly announce the March birth of their son, Garrett. The family lives in Suwanee, Ga.

Tamekia Russell ('03) is a staff accountant with Taylor CPA LLC. She lives in Columbus, Ga.

Joseph Sikes ('03) and **Cicely Bussie** ('01) were married in March at the Botanical Garden at Georgia Southern. They reside in Pulaski, Ga.

Vikki Natasha Burke ('04) received a Master of Arts degree in counseling from the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, Mo.

Brandy Epstein Clark ('04) is a staff accountant with Gulfstream. She and her husband, Jason, live in Pooler, Ga.

Shameika Ford ('04) recently completed the Master of Human Resource Management degree at Keller Graduate School of Management. She lives in Smyrna, Ga., and can be reached at monee1978@aol.com.

Brett Holley ('04) and **Citabria Manley** ('03) were married Dec. 2, 2006. The couple lives in Winston-Salem, N.C., where Brett is a civil engineer and Citabria is a resident physician at Wake Forest University Medical Center.

Pierce Milford ('04) is vice president of marketing for the Broadwick Corporation. "I moved to Chapel Hill to join a small team building their software company. Three years later we've grown from five employees to over 50," he wrote. "Those interested can read my blog at www.brandonmilford.com." He lives in Chapel Hill, N.C., and can be reached at pbmilford@gmail.com.

Blair Riley ('04) and **Bill Inabinet** ('05) were married March 31 in Dublin, Ga. Blair teaches seventh grade in Loganville, Ga., and Bill is a cash management representative for the National Bank of Walton County in Monroe, Ga., where they also make their home.

Jonathan Smith ('04) of Richmond Hill, Ga., received a Master of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology, Emory University in May. Candler School of Theology is one of nine schools at Emory University and one of 13 official seminaries of the United Methodist Church. Smith earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history at Georgia Southern. He is a member of the South Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church.

William Stuart ('04) and his wife, **Carolyn** (Smothers '05), celebrated the November birth of their son, William Thomas. William is an administrator with the Georgia Dermatology and Skin Care Center. Carolyn is a math teacher at Tattnall Square Academy. The family lives in Macon and would enjoy hearing from friends at stuart_wb@hotmail.com or carolynsmothers@hotmail.com.

Laura Wooten ('04) was recently promoted to assistant property manager at Sterling Trust Realty in Atlanta.

Amanda Permenter Garlow ('05) and her husband, **Russ** ('04), celebrated the February birth of their daughter, Josilea. Amanda has started a publishing company designing unique catalogs, brochures and other small media. Russ has a computer and software business. The family lives in Screven, Ga. They write, "We both have Facebook accounts if anyone would like say hello or see pictures of the baby."

Michael Wayne Murphy Jr. ('05) and April Greco were married in June. Wayne is an assistant golf professional at The Club at Savannah Harbor. The couple resides in Pooler, Ga.

Stacie Sanders ('05) accepted a position with CKR Group in Tampa, Fla., as an account manager.

Allison Brown ('06) is an intern in the Office of the Governor at the Georgia State Capitol.

Tina Cook Rhodes ('06) is a principal with the McDuffie County, Ga., Board of Education. She and her husband, Steven, live in Martinez.

Valerie Lee Woodrum ('06) is a teacher at Nevils Elementary School. She and her husband, Louis, reside in Statesboro and can be reached at vwoodrum@bulloch.k12.ga.us.

In Memoriam

ALUMNI

Charles A. Deal, Statesboro
Larry Joe Godbee, Statesboro
George C. Hagins Jr. ('62), Statesboro
Danny L. Jones ('73), Augusta, Ga.
Donald Lanier, Statesboro
D. Wayne Purser, MD ('70), Statesboro
Nancy McMullen Cox Root, Statesboro
Jo Anne Walton Mock ('92), Statesboro
Elsie Harden Smith, Statesboro
Vivian G. Trawick ('35), Midville, Ga.
Glenn Thomas Jr. ('56), Jesup, Ga.
Thomas E. Vandiver ('35), Artesia, N.M.

FACULTY

David Starnes, writing and linguistics
Lynn Dellenbarger, finance

STUDENTS

Chen Yin Chang, Marietta, Ga.
David Schnake, Jacksonville, Fla.



SUZANNE OLIVER

» ALUMNI PROFILE

Shy? No. Retiring? Never!

109-year-old Dr. Leila Denmark continues to offer sage advice

By Loretta Brandon

Leila Daughtry Denmark graduated from the First District A&M School in 1918 – long before it became Georgia Southern – and from the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) in 1928.

Throughout her medical career, which spanned the next 73 years, she dedicated herself to helping parents give their children the best chance for good health and a bright future.

Today, at 109 years young, she still enjoys visits from family and friends and gets occasional calls for pediatric advice.

“I’ve been pretty well satisfied with the way things turned out,” said Denmark. “I would never use the word retire, and I believe people should work as long as they can. Sitting down and doing nothing is no good. It’s no fun, not a speck.”

Leila Daughtry began life in Bulloch County in 1898, the third child among 12 – six girls and six boys. Gifted with a determination to heal, she created salves and medicines for injured farm animals during her early years (“I thought what I made was pretty good.”). She completed high school at First District A&M School, focusing on science courses and learning to play a good game of tennis, and then moved on to Tift College, again focusing on biology, chemistry and physics.

“In 1924, she virtually browbeat the admissions committee at the Medical College of Georgia to get in,” said Denmark’s daughter, Mary Hutcherson. “She was the only woman in a class of 50 men.”

But Denmark remembers them as a “nice bunch of men. There was never a word that wasn’t right.”

Leila Daughtry married Eustace Denmark, a Bulloch County neighbor, soon after graduat-



In a photo taken several years ago, Dr. Denmark shares a happy moment with two patients who visited her home office.

ing from medical school in 1928. They moved to Atlanta, where Leila interned briefly at Grady Hospital. Shortly afterward she became the first intern – and admitted the first patient – at the newly opened Henrietta Eggleston Children’s Hospital, now Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. She also began volunteering one day each week at the Central Presbyterian Church Baby Clinic, a practice she continued for more than 50 years.

Denmark opened her first office in the breakfast room of the home she and her husband rented in Atlanta in 1930. Throughout her career, she maintained her office in her home, so although she worked full-time, she was at home when needed.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s Denmark began research on a vaccine to prevent pertussis,

or whooping cough, which at that time was often fatal to children. Working with the Eli Lilly Company, she developed an immunization protocol that saved the lives of thousands of children. In 1935, she received the prestigious Fisher Award for research in the diagnosis, treatment, and immunization against whooping cough.

When she traveled with Eustace, Leila used her unoccupied time to write down the things she taught young mothers about taking care of their children. The result was *Every Child Deserves a Chance*, a book in which she covered children’s well-being from birth to adolescence.

“Mother shared definite ideas about child rearing in her book,” said Hutcherson. “She believed a child needed good parents to see that a child was properly fed and properly disciplined. She believed in a strict schedule for a new baby. She favored a diet of meats and vegetables for children, with no soft drinks, very little sugar, and no between-meal snacking for children of any age. She believed in teaching a child good manners, propriety in dressing, and kindness and respect for others.”

Denmark’s good work has been widely recognized by educational, civic and cultural organizations. In 1953, she was named Atlanta’s Woman of the Year, and in 1983 received a medal from the DAR. She received several alumni awards and honorary doctorates from Georgia Southern, MCG, Tift College, Emory University and Mercer University. In 1998, on the occasion of her 100th birthday, the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* presented her with its Healthcare Heroes Award for lifetime achievement.

What’s her prescription for such a long life?

“Eat right, and do what you love to do,” said Denmark.

PARTING SHOT

A wide-angle photograph of a large outdoor concert at night. In the foreground, a dense crowd of people is seen from behind, looking towards the stage. The stage is illuminated with vibrant red light. A guitarist in a white shirt and a cowboy hat is visible on the left side of the stage, playing an electric guitar. To the right, a drummer is partially visible behind a drum kit. The background features a large structure with horizontal slats, possibly part of a stadium or arena, which is also lit with red light. The overall atmosphere is energetic and festive.

More than 11,000 country music fans flocked to Paulson Stadium last April as superstar Brad Paisley was joined by Taylor Swift, Jack Ingram and former American Idol contestant Kellie Pickler in a spring concert. A heavily student crowd tailgated in the Paulson parking lot while others lined up more than three hours prior to the performance, hoping to be among the lucky few to capture coveted stagefront standing room.

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SUZANNE OLIVER

Faculty, staff and students of Georgia Southern observed the 59th anniversary of the time-honored campus tradition of summer watermelon cuttings last June. Employees took a few minutes out of their offices and students stopped their trek to classes to partake in slices served up by University President Bruce Grube and Food Services personnel. The tradition was founded by the late President Zach Henderson in 1948. The 2007 edition marked President Grube's ninth watermelon cutting.



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